

# Optimist

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*In This Issue...*

Santa Claus is Coming... to the Mall • Behind the Scenes at Local Clubs • The Casino Quandary



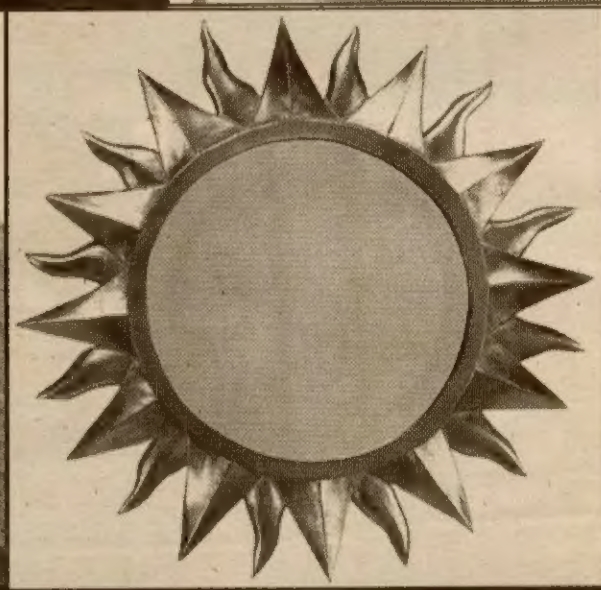
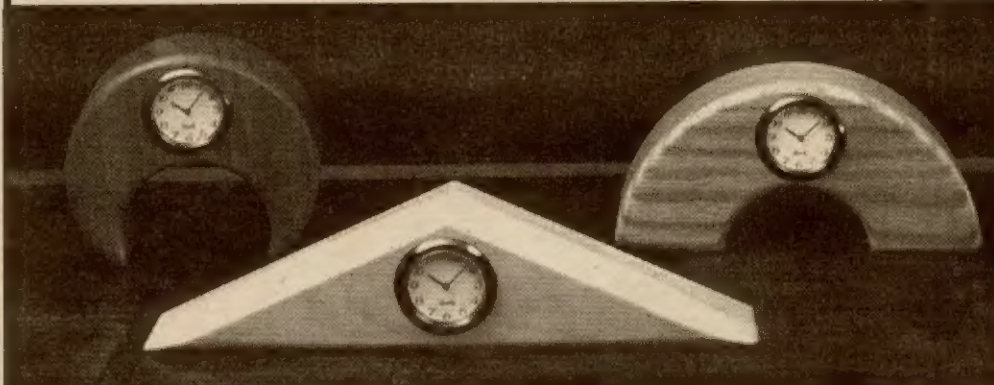
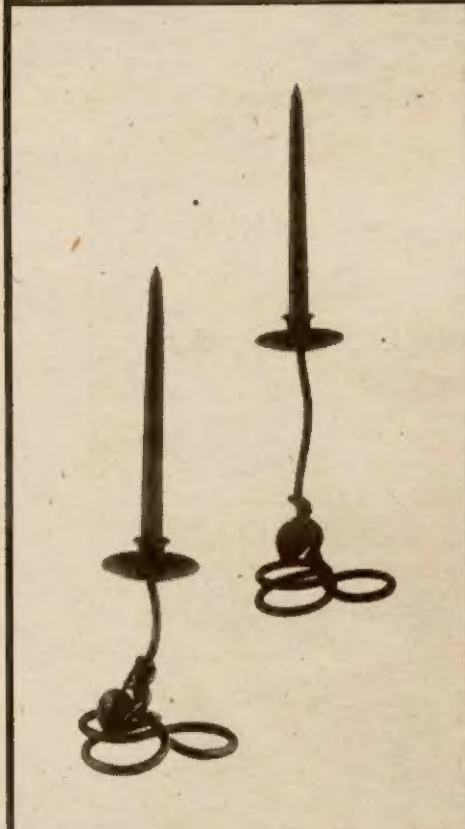
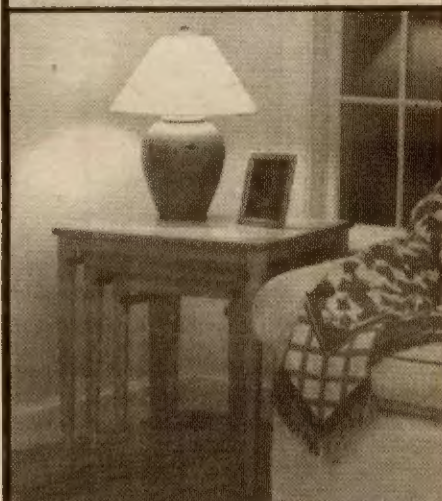
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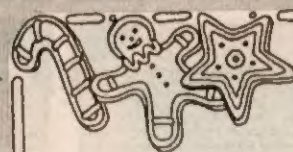


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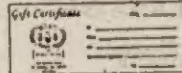
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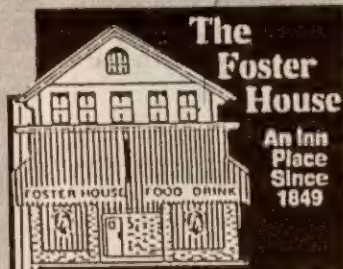
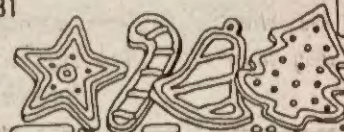
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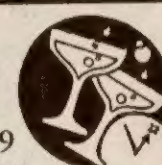
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## Optimist In This Issue

## Contents...

Positively Real • 7  
Local Answers • 12  
Optimist News • 13  
Cyberia • 16  
Stock Watch • 16  
Umass Hoops • 16  
Main Attraction • 18  
Optimist Arts • 20  
Pioneer Valley Music • 24  
Community Calendar • 26  
Literary Optimist • 29  
Record Reviews • 30

Community Chat • 31  
Current Projections • 34  
Movietimes • 35  
News of the Weird • 36  
Letterman's Top Ten • 37  
Comics • 38  
Horoscopes • 40  
Emotional Fitness • 41  
Click & Clack • 42  
Classifieds • 45  
Personals • 46

## On the Cover

"December Twilight," 1990, pastel on paper by Jim Schantz. Mr. Schantz is a professional artist who lives in the Berkshires and teaches art at Interliken School of Art in Stockbridge. Mr. Schantz has a solo show at Pucker Gallery on Newbury St. in Boston through Jan. 10. His work can also be seen at the Springfield Sales and Rental Gallery and as part of many permanent collections, including that of the University of Massachusetts.

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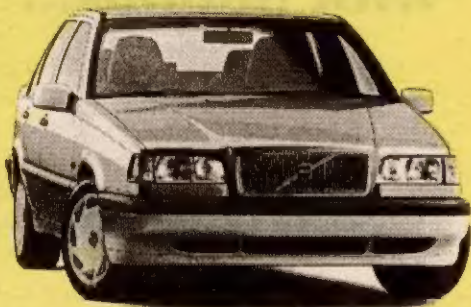
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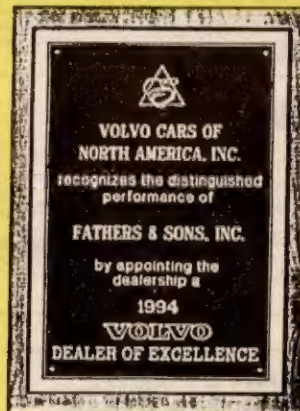
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# The Man Behind the Beard

Suiting up as Santa Claus

by Catherine Heins

**S**anta Suit, velvet with satin lining, 2 years old, worn 10 times. Paid \$300, asking \$200.

This ad appeared on December 4 in a local paper, and it's quite a bargain, considering that a top-of-the-line suit costs \$650. But it takes more than a suit to play Santa Claus. The youthful audiences take Santa seriously, and they know what they want. They've seen it before, too — over 25 million children visit 7,460 mall Santas every year in the United States.

Fortunately, Santas get training — at least Mark Morrison's do. Morrison, the Santa Plus manager for ten mall Santa set-ups on the East Coast, is responsible for the photo shoot apparatus. The malls supply the sets; he provides the Santas. The first step, says Morrison, is "just getting in and out of the suit." Some Santas need to don fake beards; others already sport a winsome fringe. Naturally bearded Santas, he says, tend to command higher salaries.

Santas also need to learn the subtleties of the role, which include keeping the line moving when a kid's list unrolls down to the floor, posing for photos, placating parents who are on the verge of a breakdown, and stalling children who are on the verge of peeing in their pants.

Meanwhile, Santas have to be listening closely to the background commotion, picking up kids' names before the kids are actually on Santa's knee with a list of demands.

"Santas have to love kids," says Morrison, "and most of them really do. It's not for the money." The only full-time Santa in the area is employed by Yankee Candle Company. The rest are strictly seasonal Santas, often taking vacation time from a regular job or coming out of retirement.

## Spreading Cheer Throughout the Mall

At the Holyoke Mall, the Santa set in Café Square is in full swing by 11 a.m. on a weekday morning. Santa, a.k.a. Kyle McDonald, is seated in an expansive rocking chair, receiving his youthful visitors one at a time. Some are there for a holiday photo, taken by location manager Donna Carraturo, who doubles as Santa's helper. The photos, surrounded by a seasonally decorated frame, run \$6.99 apiece.

Other kids trundle up simply to say hello and chat for a minute or two. Some parents bring along their own camera, and take the photo themselves. Most kids go with the casual look, but a few, especially the younger set, are dressed for the occasion. Nina, a blonde toddler, is the best-dressed kid of the morning. She is outfitted in a black velvet dress with white lace trim and a big satiny-bow around the back. White tights and black buckle shoes complete the ensemble.

Nina, perhaps conscious of her elegance,



Kyle McDonald takes a break at Taco Bell in between handing out Nutri-Grain bars at the Holyoke Mall.

inspects her photo carefully from several angles, including upside-down, before relinquishing it to her mother. "Bye, Santa," she calls back, apparently satisfied, as she trots off.

McDonald waves a white-gloved hand in reply. He harbors ambitions of becoming a full-

on the set. "Who?" he asks, blank-faced.

"Oh, sorry, Santa," she replies. Santa nods. He settles back and awaits the next visitor. A young girl with a cloud of auburn curls encircling her face hovers on the edge of the set, safe in her mother's arms. "We're just warming her

**In general, scenes of Santa harassment are rare, says Kyle McDonald, the Santa at the Holyoke Mall. "The Easter Bunny gets beat up on more," he says.**

time Santa, but it's a tough market, and at the moment he's simply grateful that his regular employer, *Dragon's Lair*, gave him the time off.

"I take Santa seriously," he explains during a break. "I take everything about this job seriously." His devotion to the role becomes apparent when Carraturo inadvertently calls him Kyle

up," the mother explains. Many kids boldly run up to talk, but others just stare. Their silence isn't surprising. Santa may be the only stranger that kids are actually encouraged to talk to.

The mother attempts to introduce her daughter to Santa several times, but the daughter wants none of it. Eventually, they depart, to return

another day, or perhaps next year. Meanwhile, four boys cascade cheerfully into Santa's lap, clamoring for attention. There's strength in numbers.

Jordan's mother is anxiously brushing Jordan's hair in line. Jordan, wearing a red and black corduroy dress and clutching Minnie Mouse, seems unfazed, but is also unwilling to crack a grin for the camera. Carraturo jingles a bracelet of bells to engage her attention, and finally Jordan is coaxed into smiling. Click.

For those who are truly in a sour mood, Santa resorts to tickling. Carraturo always exclaims, "Oh, Santa's going to tickle you!" so the kids don't get startled.

Some kids turn fretful immediately upon being abandoned by their parents, who never drift far beyond the range of the camera. Others are cheerfully compliant, although by about third grade they seem slightly self-conscious, as though they're only doing this because Mom or Dad insisted.

Many older kids prefer to stand, and are more comfortable giving Santa a high-five instead of the more traditional handshake. Others make the pilgrimage entirely by stroller, turning the set into a sort of Santa drive-through. And some kids just refuse, often to the chagrin of their parents. "Kids make up their minds whether they're going to see Santa or not," says McDonald. "You can't coax a child."

Except when they're very young. When infants get panicky, McDonald offers them his Santa treats — blueberry Nutri-Grain bars. "The food," he explains, "takes their mind off the big red guy with the beard." What happened to candy canes? "They went out the door years ago," says McDonald, with a dismissive wave of the hand. No one seems to know why, although Morrison suspects it was the health issue. Parents apparently appreciate healthier treats, and hard candy isn't suitable for very young children due to the risk of choking if they bite off a piece. Last year, Santa handed out breakfast cereal.

When business is slow, McDonald roams the food court, passing out Christmas cheer and conversation to both children and adults. "You gonna make sure I get everything I asked for, right?" one young woman demands, as she high-fives Santa.

"How's your luck?" Santa asks a middle-aged woman, as she examines a scratch ticket in disgust. "Lousy," she answers, grinning.

On the way out to lunch, Santa rumples a towheaded boy's hair, passes out Nutri-Grain bars to an amused family, and swaps hats with an elderly visitor sporting a black felt cap. "I'm the Christmas spirit," he explains. "I'm supposed to make everyone feel good."

Over tacos, McDonald discusses the subtleties of the Santa trade. "You never promise anything," he says. "Sometimes kids say, 'Santa, I want Mom and Dad back together again.' And I have to say, 'I'll try, but that's really up to Mom



and dad, not Santa."

What happens when teenagers start harassing Santa on his joy-spreading travels among the lunchers? Once, his first year as Santa, he lost his temper, although not so that anyone noticed except his provoker. Now, he leaves it up to others, and merely speaks loudly to draw attention.

"I'll say, 'oh, you're being mean,' or, 'Santa doesn't like that. That's not nice.'" Nearby adults quickly figure it out and intervene. Occasionally, young children will take the adolescents to task for their bad manners. But these scenes are rare. "The Easter Bunny gets beat up on more," says McDonald.

He also doesn't believe in moralizing to the kids, or using his mythical authority to back up a parent's agenda. "It really ticks me off when parents say, 'if you're bad, Santa won't bring you anything.' One mother once said, 'Santa wants you to be a good boy.' I shocked her, I guess. I said, 'Santa knows you're a good boy.' It's my job to make every child feel special."

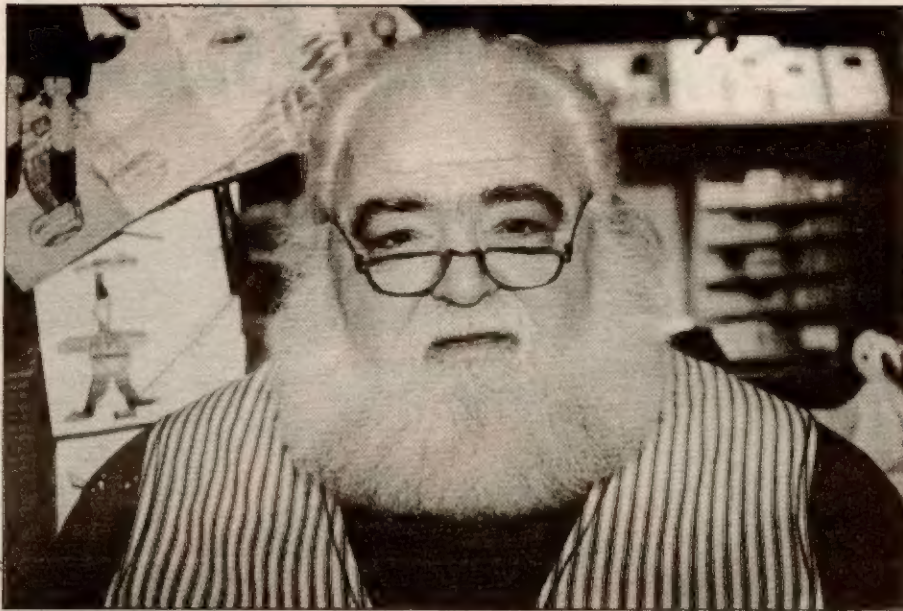
After a quick mint to ward off taco breath, McDonald dons his beard again, and as he steps back into the mall, slips back into Santa mode.

### Santa's Summer Home

"I coax them in a soft voice," says the Santa-in-residence at Yankee Candle Company in Deerfield, who prefers to be known simply as Santa. "I tell them they've got a friend in Santa. But some just won't come up. Lots of kids spend the whole car ride telling Mom what they're going to say to Santa, but when they arrive, they can't do it. Then you get the ones who can't keep quiet. You hope the others, behind them, will see that and they'll open up too."

At Yankee Candle, Santa seems quite at home, presiding over his toy workshop. In a loft above Santa's nook, mechanized elves work diligently on hand-crafted toys while snow falls gently beyond the windows. Toys ranging from puzzles to wooden airplanes line the walls — if children arrive without a list, they won't have to look far for inspiration.

So what are children asking for? Among girls, as usual, Barbie leads the pack. For boys, last year's popular Power Rangers figures have fallen from favor. No single mania has replaced them, to the undoubted chagrin of toy marketers.



Jeff Davis

**Yankee Candle's Santa reminds kids to eat their vegetables, go to bed on time, put their toys away, wash their faces, and brush their teeth.**

"Kids ask for the basics," says Santa, "Nintendo and Sega, CDs, computers, fire engines. And I get great enjoyment when they ask for something to share with their brother or sister. Often, they ask for peace in the world. But sometimes the kids will tell you they want their mom back, and she's died, or their dad is in the service and hasn't been home for two years. Those are the heartbreakers. You don't

bed on time, put their toys away, wash their faces, and brush their teeth.

"I make them show me their smile," he says. "If they're not smiling, they're not brushing!" Of course, the advice will only be taken if a child has faith in Santa, and knowing their name is the easiest way to convince them.

Parents occasionally hold up signs behind their children's backs. Or they'll go up to Santa's

**"I make kids show me their smile," says Santa at Yankee Candle. "If they're not smiling, they're not brushing!"**

know what to say or do."

Like McDonald, Santa doesn't believe in promises, but this Santa has no reservations about invoking his authority to improve a child's behavior, or setting his own restrictions on Santa's beneficence.

"I say, 'we'll see what we can do, but you've got to be good, and behave.' I don't give guns or weapons, and when they ask for a pet, I tell them that they have to be responsible. Lots of kids don't really want to take care of a pet." He also reminds kids to eat their vegetables, go to

chair in advance, to warn him, for example, that eight-year-old Annie, in a green coat and braids, will be along shortly. They may even brief Santa on Annie's reluctance to put on her seat belt. "It makes them believe," Santa explains. And often, it makes Annie buckle up. At least until Christmas.

The kids, in their turn, have a few questions for Santa. Most are fairly benign inquiries about the day-to-day life and health of Mrs. Claus, Rudolph, and the elves. Many a doubting Thomas, however, feels compelled to inform

Santa that he isn't real. Some tug his beard to verify its authenticity.

Kids aren't Santa's only visitors. Tour buses roll into Yankee Candle regularly, bringing tourists from China, Cuba, or points in between. Foreign visitors are usually familiar with the concept of Santa Claus, and recognize the costume. English children call him Father Christmas, and the Germans address him as Kris Kringle.

Tourists might be surprised to see Santa in June, and they probably weren't expecting to encounter a Bavarian village or the Black Forest in the middle of Massachusetts. But if they can handle that, and if they can handle the elves' enthusiastic rendition of the "Yankee Candle Polka" at lunchtime, they're truly ready to take on America.

### Ho Ho Ho, Bow Wow Wow

Over at Dave's Soda and Pet Food City in Springfield, Santa hands out dog biscuits instead of candy canes. And Santa doesn't have to worry about his visitors' questions. He doesn't even ask what they want. But there are other challenges. Coaxing a baby to smile is nothing compared to trying to convince a disgruntled Doberman to prick up his ears.

Dave's Soda and Pet Food City donated their space for a one-day photo shoot of pets plus Santa (plus snow) on December 9. The event was sponsored by FACES, a privately run dog rescue shelter. Photos here cost \$8, but given the extra challenge and the charitable cause, it's a bargain. The photographers, Franklyn and Elizabeth Cyran of Silver Ridge Photography, have donated their time as well, after driving in from Ware in blizzard conditions.

Wilfred Stokowski, on a one-day Santa stint, also volunteered his time. A few dozen dogs into the shoot, he may be regretting it. Stokowski works at FACES. "I love all animals," he says. "This was my idea!"

He borrowed the Santa outfit from his son, who plays Santa at the Chapin School in Chicopee. The suit is getting some rough treatment this afternoon, as several hundred pounds of damp dog clamber eagerly onto hay bales for their holiday photo.

The poundage is distributed among two Rottweilers (Elliot and Bruin) and a Golden Retriever named Jacob, with the Rottweilers

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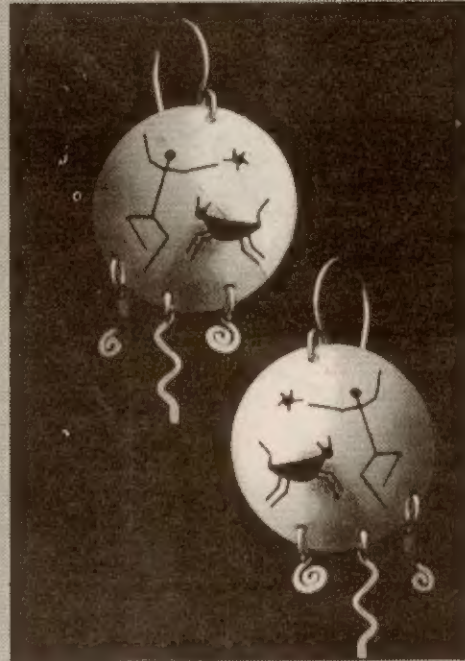
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## FOOD

## Simply Delicious

Simply Delicious is a food and wine column contributed by the chef team at the Lord Jeffery Inn and Elijah Boltwood's Tavern, who believe that delicious food with elegant touches does not have to be complicated. This weeks suggestion is:

### Christmas Roast Goose

To provide friends or family with a simple but unique variation on roast turkey, try a Charles Dickens classic roast goose. An 8-10 pound bird will feed 6-8 people with all the accompaniments. To prepare, wash the goose inside and out, removing any fat you see. Rub inside and out with salt and pepper. Stuff with your favorite stuffing recipe. Ours includes finely diced onion, mushroom, celery, red and green peppers, apples, cranberries, sausage, coarsely chopped bread crumbs, chicken stock, parsley, thyme, salt and pepper. Roast the bird breast down for 2 1/2 hours at 350°, then turn the breast up for the last

When the leg and thigh bone move freely away from the body the bird is done. Goose is somewhat of a cross between duck and turkey, very succulent and flavorful. The fruit added to the stuffing and a 1/2 cup of apple juice added to the pan drippings when you make gravy complement it well.

A wide variety of wines can be paired with it, so simply choose your favorite. Dry Riesling or Chardonnay are good white choices, or a Beaujolais Nouveau or your favorite Pinot Noir are possible reds.

Whatever your choice, it's a very fine meal, as simple to roast as a chicken, and something your guests probably have not tried, but will enjoy and remember.

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Joel Davis

**Wilfred Stokowski, Santa for a day at Dave's Soda and Pet Food City, knows that coaxing a baby to smile is nothing compared to trying to convince a disgruntled Doberman to prick up his ears.**

accounting for most of the weight. They are owned by Lisa and Randall Chaves, who assist the volunteers in constructing a satisfactory tableau. No one is too concerned about whether one of the dogs blinked, although every effort is made to get them all aimed in the direction of the tripod.

A pet store is hardly the most tranquil environment for dogs to sit for a portrait. The smell of lunch must be intoxicating, especially when so much of it is still breathing — or perhaps palpitating would be more accurate. In any case, a handful of miniature lop-eared rabbits, stationed nearby, are having an anxious morning of it.

"Considering the weather," says Cynthia Greenberg, a shelter volunteer, "[the turnout] has been really good." They photographed several dozen dogs in the first hour, and at least 12 more during the next 30 minutes. Altogether, the shoot should bring in several hundred dollars for the shelter, the costs of which are currently paid out of the pockets of FACES volunteers.

is snapped, and he bounds down. It's all a question of knowing what to say.

Simba, an adolescent Shepherd with a soulful stare, also has to be coaxed to forget the problems of the world for a brief moment. And Murphy, Sally DuPuis' Shar-pei/Spaniel mix, is eager and willing, but dissolves into uncontrollable wriggling when put on the spot.

Kelly Hogan has brushed Kisha, her Siberian husky, especially for the occasion, but Kisha's calm leaves her once she settles beside Santa on the hay bales. To alleviate their pet's fretfulness, many owners have to get in the photograph as well.

Overall, though, it takes no longer to snap a good photo of the family dog than it does to photograph the family children. Longer for both if more than one subject is involved. As we leave, Santa is wrestling with a high-strung pair of Red-boned Coonhounds. Someone ought to tell Stokowski about the Santa suit for sale in the classifieds, or he'll have more than his canine clientele to worry about. Hopefully the kids at the Chapin School aren't allergic to dogs. ★

Cats, of course, would be easier subjects, but given cats' firm antipathy to car travel, dogs dominate the fray. Large dogs get decorated either with a plaid bow or a red-and-green scarf. Penny, a timid beagle with the air of a portly dowager, dons beige stuffed antlers. But she either can't, or won't, prick up her ears with the antlers on. The antlers are removed.

"Hold up a bone treat," owner Karen McCarthy suggests. "She loves food." Sure enough, Penny's ears spring up at the first glimpse of a biscuit. "Come on, Penny," McCarthy urges, pulling her away after the successful shoot. "We've got to get a harness for Bunny."

Rex, a Doberman mix, proves singularly difficult until owner Donna Flores calls out, "Rex? Want to go in the truck?" At which point Rex's ears practically leap from their sockets, the photo

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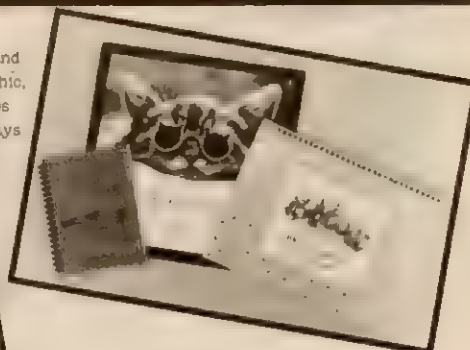
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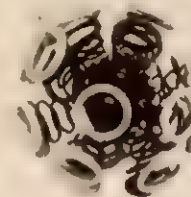
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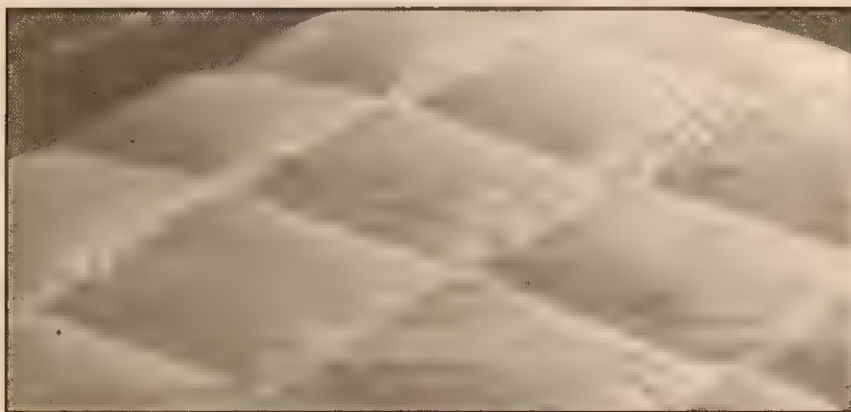
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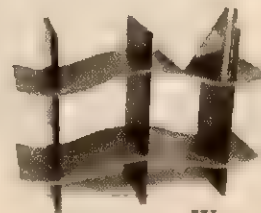


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Robert Goodman, professor of environmental planning and design at Hampshire College

## Local Answers The Casino Quandary

For a gambling spree, people used to head off to Las Vegas or Atlantic City. Now, thanks to a recent explosion in casino development across the country, anyone can gamble on a trip to Gary, Indiana, or Jefferson City, Missouri, or on an Illinois riverboat. Now that trend

to jump-start local economies. The question was, does it work?

O: Does it?

Goodman: Essentially there are two types of gambling economies in this country. One is the tourist model, in places like Las Vegas. Leaving aside some social problems, economically it can be a major benefit. People stay three or four days, and money spills out into the local economy.

O: And the other type?

Goodman: The new style of gambling, which we're seeing all over the country and which would include Holyoke, Springfield, Agawam, and Chicopee, is located in older industrial cities with serious economic problems, not tourist economies. In those types of places, you get a lot of local people gambling. You don't have tourists coming into Gary, Indiana or East St. Louis. It shifts spending out of certain businesses and into the gambling concern.

O: What kinds of businesses did you find to be affected?

Goodman: Those that depend on discretionary dollars and time. Restaurants, movie theaters, bowling alleys, and even clothing and furniture stores would all be negatively impacted.

O: Do casinos bring in new businesses to offset this trend?

Goodman: The only new businesses that we've seen are porn shops. In the Kansas City area they wound up with 13 new porn shops after they allow[ed] gambling.

increase social problems that will cost not only the people in Holyoke, but the the rest of the state, a lot of money. A gambling casino will affect not just the people in Holyoke but in all of Western Mass.

O: What about other forms of gambling, like Keno or video machines?

Goodman: Keno is moving in the direction of slot machines. You can do it every five minutes. Electronic video machines are actually considered the most addictive form of gambling. Counselors refer to them as the "crack cocaine" of gambling.

In Holland, they had so many problems with gambling behavior that the legislature decided to get rid of all 64,000 machines in the country. In Britain, they've had enormous problems with underage gambling where these, 'fruit machines,' they call them, are available. Keno is the step

before those machines. With the introduction of Keno, you increase the amount of problem gambling in the state and cycle a lot more money out of other activities.

O: Is more attention being focused on this issue now?

Goodman: There's legislation now to establish a national commission to study the social and economic impacts of gambling in the United States.

O: How would you like to see gambling addressed?

Goodman: As public policy, it should be determined what's economically in the best interests of the people of Massachusetts, and then it should be put directly to the voters. I'd venture to say that if the issue had been put to all the voters in Western Mass., it wouldn't have passed.

— Catherine Heins ★

**The gambling industry has typically gone to economically depressed areas. That's one of the reasons they targeted Holyoke.**

has come to the Valley. Springfield, Holyoke, Chicopee, and Agawam have recently hosted referendums on allowing casinos in their communities in the hopes of sparking economic growth.

We asked Robert Goodman, professor of environmental planning and design at Hampshire College, whether or not these hopes are unrealistic. Professor Goodman has published a book, *The Luck Business*, based on a two-year study he developed with a team of other social scientists, which examines the consequences of casino development.

Optimist: Could you briefly describe this study?

Goodman: The basic idea was to ask where the idea of gambling as economic development is coming from, where it's been used, and what the consequences have been. A lot has been written about places like Las Vegas and Atlantic City, but when we began, three and a half years ago, very little was being done about the explosion of gambling all over the country, in the Midwest and the South particularly. In most cases, they're trying to use gambling

O: So it's up to the casino alone to generate the revenue to compensate for other economic losses?

Goodman: Yes, but overall, casinos are closing down and people are being laid off. Or popular local groups have been formed to get rid of the gambling ventures. Even in New Orleans, which is a best-case scenario because it already has a tourist economy, the casinos couldn't get the revenues they projected. One recently went bankrupt and laid off thousands of people.

O: So it's not even an economically sound proposition?

Goodman: They wanted to put a casino in downtown Springfield, to bring new jobs and businesses in. Well, we haven't seen that happen anywhere. The gambling industry has typically gone to economically depressed areas. That's one of the reasons they targeted Holyoke.

O: But Holyoke does need jobs.

Goodman: But it doesn't need a venture that will suck more money out of local people in the Holyoke area, that will



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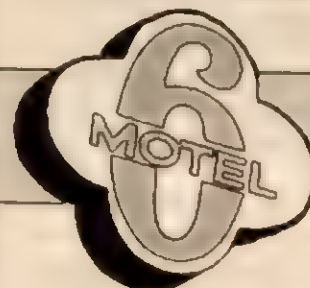
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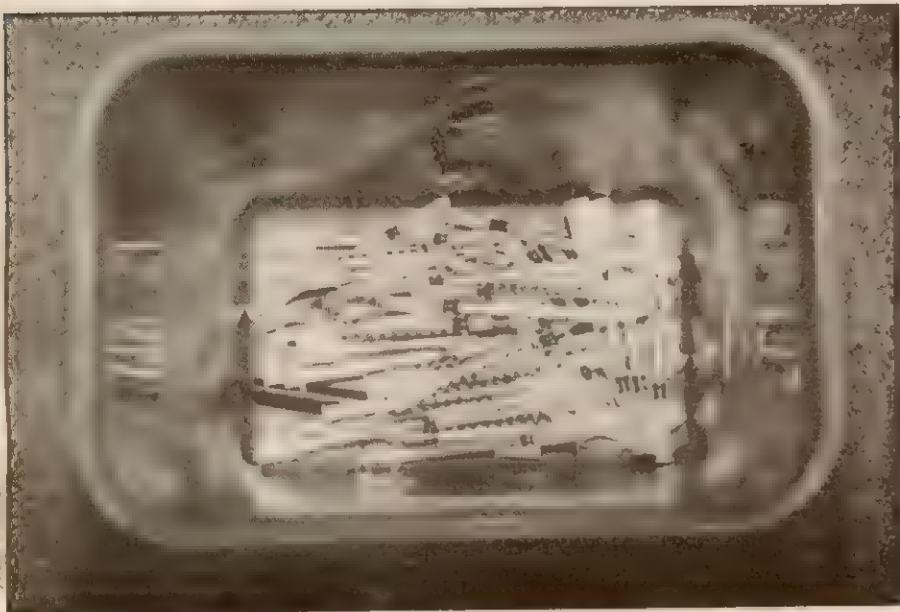
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Used sharps get the can with the Northampton needle exchange program.

## Health

### The Needle and the Damage Done

The establishment of the free needle exchange at the Western Massachusetts Family Planning Council in Northampton reveals a grim fact about the Northampton area: Heroin use is on the rise.

The program, a free one-for-one exchange of dirty syringes for clean ones, began on December 11 as part of the council's effort to reduce the transmission of HIV in western Massachusetts.

"Heroin is absolutely on the rise," says program supervisor Tim Purington. "There are a lot more young people getting into it. It's kind of a fashionable thing."

An increase in the number of HIV transmissions resulting from intravenous drug use has followed. The Family Planning Council reports that approximately 45 percent of HIV transmissions in Western Massachusetts are caused by needle-sharing, making the creation of an exchange program "urgent," according to council Executive Director Leslie Laurie.

"What we are trying to do here is meet a hometown need, and clearly there is a hometown need," says Laurie. "I see this as a public health issue, not a political issue."

Early feedback from the needle exchange shows that the program may help. On the first day, eight needles were collected, a number Purington expects to rise as more IV drug users become aware of the program through word of mouth and the council's outreach efforts in Northampton and other towns in Western Mass.

"It is a slow process. People [who are IV drug users] do not wear name tags. It is a matter of establishing ourselves in areas where there are IV drug users," says Purington, who also coordinates the council's Risk Reduction Project, which seeks out IV drug users in Northampton and nearby towns to distribute bleach kits for cleaning needles. "A lot of people are waiting to see what happens with the needle exchange program. They want to see if it is something they can trust."

Northampton Police Chief Russell P.

Sienkiewicz says he began to see signs of increased heroin use in mid-1993, when 3 deaths attributed to heroin took place in a relatively short period. Sienkiewicz also attributes the deaths to greater purity of heroin, which he says is now often 70-80 percent pure compared to 8-10 percent several years ago. Higher purity increases the chances of overdosing, even if the heroin is snorted rather than injected.

Sienkiewicz says that the 16-24 year old age group has seen the biggest increase in heroin usage.

"There's a kind of aura, something about heroin that seems to attract them," he says.

Increased heroin use, or at least the greater purity and toxicity seen by Sienkiewicz, is not a trend confined to Northampton. A recent study released by the Drug Abuse Awareness Network shows a marked increase in the number of heroin-related emergencies in metropolitan areas across the country.

The Northampton exchange is the state's second program of this kind. Possession of syringes is illegal in Massachusetts, making the state one of only nine in the country with such a law. In 1993, the state legislature authorized a pilot needle-exchange program in Boston.

On the heels of that program's success — 20 percent of people exchanging needles went on to become involved in a substance abuse counseling program — the legislature authorized the Department of Public Health to begin ten other exchange programs.

Attending counseling sessions is not a requirement for the Northampton needle exchange, but participants will have access to information about treatment and counseling services in the area.

— Ben Geman

## Education

### Raise the Roof

On Tuesday, December 12th, Amherst voters told the town that they want renovations on the high school to begin now, even though state money will not become available for another three years. Since Pelham refused to agree to provide bridge funding this fall, the vote will have to make yet another round of the Town Meetings, start-

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ing in January. Shutesbury, Leverett, Pelham, and Amherst comprise the regional school district.

On December 12th, students, parents, concerned citizens, and the Superintendent himself, Gus Sayars, stood in the 20-degree cold, holding signs that asked voters to support immediate funding. Although only 25 percent of registered voters turned out for the election, bridge funding was approved by 1,723 voted to 1,108.

The school is currently on a waiting list for state funding. But in its 50-year history, the School Building Assistance Bureau has never reneged on providing funds once a project was approved.

"The risk is definitely worth it," says Sayars. "We expect another 250 students entering the junior and senior high schools in the next three years, and there just isn't room for them." To accommodate the extra students, the school will have to lease modular classrooms, which Sayars describes as "money down the drain. We'll never get that money back."

The problem isn't really where the money comes from. "I think a lot of people aren't aware of how bad the problem really is," says Cory Kurtz, a high school junior from Pelham, who wielded her sign at the corner of Triangle St. and North Pleasant.

To remedy this situation, the Student Senate has filmed a video depicting the various defects in the 40-year-old building. The senate plans to show the video at the upcoming Town Meetings. "There are holes in the ceiling," says Kurtz, "and the heating system is antique. We either freeze or we sweat." The cafeteria is so small that lines stretch out the door at lunchtime and students often have only five or ten minutes to eat, since only half an hour is allotted for lunch.

The chemistry labs have no gas, and several sinks don't work. Students use hot plates instead. Ethan Hazzard Watkins, a junior from Amherst, says that teachers' offices have been sacrificed to provide the necessary classroom space, making it harder for them to collaborate with each other.

But the worst problems, Kurtz and Watkins agree, are the overcrowding and the ninth-grade commute. The halls at both the junior high and the senior high are so packed during "passing time" that it can take four minutes just to push through the crush to find your locker (which is only three inches wide -- no down jackets allowed).

Overcrowding will only worsen as the grades advance. Next year's seventh grade is projected to be the largest ever. Watkins has a younger brother in the eighth grade, also a bulge year.

"I just can't see the school housing that many people," Watkins says. "There just isn't room." Overcrowding leads not only to packed hallways but packed classes. Often 30 students are in a single class, making discussion difficult and individual attention nearly impossible.

The ninth-graders must trek along icy sidewalks between the two schools. "Classes are 41 minutes long," says Watkins. "We have four minutes passing time, and there's an extra five minutes to get up or down the hill, so that's a 36-minute class, and any teacher will tell you, you can't get anything done in 36 minutes."

Watkins believes that Amherst is generally supportive of education. "It's such a simple thing that they're asking for," he says.

"I think a lot of people do care about education in Amherst," says Kurtz.

"Each town will decide for itself," says Sayars. "But it certainly will create a more favorable climate if more people are already supportive."

It's taken five years for Frontier Regional High to get funding to start needed renovations. Northampton High School may switch to fewer and longer class periods, but there's no budget for technology, nor, at the moment, even a computer literacy course, although in many school districts, second-graders are already surfing the Net.

— Catherine Heins

## Media

### A New Sheriff in Town at WSPR-AM

Ozzie Alban has been the director of WSPR-AM (1270 on the dial) for just six months. In that time, the all-Spanish station has skyrocketed from #14 to #3 on the Albitron ratings, and has changed its name from P'Alante to Radio Universal, a name selected through a call-in survey. Alban, a former sales executive at WSPR, describes the station's meteoric rise in sales terms. "We are the only station in the area to have a Coca-Cola account," he says.

Alban's directorship has sparked controversy in the radio community and in the Hispanic community at large. "I feel bad, because when I began, I had to lay off everyone," Alban says, adding that the owner of the station, Edmund Denis, had expected him to do so. According to Alban, Denis hadn't been happy with the station for some time. Denis purchased the frequency in the fall of 1993, aware of the listening potential of Hampden County's vast Hispanic community.

While Alban hails from Ecuador, nine out of ten of his radio listeners, in the Holyoke area, are Puerto Rican. However, Alban is quick to point out that his staff is 87 percent Puerto Rican, in proportion to the surrounding communities.

Alban himself complains of feeling excluded when he first arrived at WSPR, after many years at WTCC at Springfield Technical Community College. "I wasn't involved," he says. "When the newspapers came, when there were photos, no one even told me. Now that was discrimination. But check the records," he adds. "Who was the top salesman?"

Alban attributes his success to his determination and his positive attitude. "But it's not just me," he points out. "It's the people we have there. Before, anyone could come and talk. But if they're on prime time, when people are listening, you have to sound professional, to have good diction and vocabulary, because that's how little kids learn."

Thanks to a 5,000-watt transmitter, Radio Universal has a 300,000-person audience ranging from Meriden, Conn., to the Vermont border and as far west as Pittsfield. The nearest other Spanish-speaking stations are located in New Britain, Conn., and Hartford. Radio Universal is, in fact, the strongest signal in Spanish-speaking radio north of New York City.

Thus Radio Universal has a kind of monopoly on the Hispanic audience in the Valley. Placed

in this fortuitous position, Alban is, as always, thinking ahead. First, he'd like to transfer the operations to Springfield, to a new building. "I see a big market," he says, "and it's growing. So we're going to grow too. Our radio is doing fantastic. WSPR will be so exciting that people won't have to turn on the TV."

He is driven, he says, by his love of radio. "Radio is a passion," he says. "It's something you want to give to someone else for nothing."

When he first took over, however, starting from scratch wasn't easy. "For the first month, I worked alone," he says. "I did all the organizing. I learned how to run the computer to do the programming. I was sleeping two hours a night." Even six months later, he says, "every day, I learn a little more."

Alban's interest in radio began while he was still in Ecuador. As a teenager, he repaired old

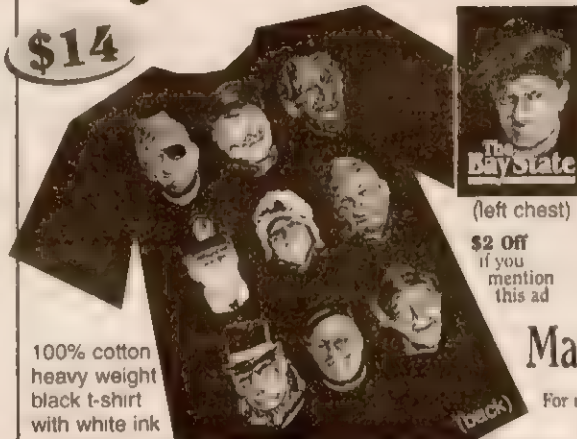
radios and antennae. His mother sang in a trio with his aunts, and his two sisters are also singers. "Always I heard music in my house," he said. "When I came to this country, I didn't know the language. But when I want something, I learn."

He plans to expand the entertainment programs on Radio Universal, and dreams of giving a car away. At the moment, WSPR features a mix of salsa, merengue, romantic music, and public affairs. He encourages community programming as well. For one thing, it pays. The Governor of Puerto Rico buys 30 minutes every Saturday morning to discuss the problems and the issues of the week. "He's bringing unity to the Puerto Rican community," says Alban. "And they pay top dollar." The Governor's diction also meets with the fastidious Alban's approval. "His Spanish," he says, "is perfect."

— CH

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Joey Davis



Governor Weld practices his debating skills.

## Community Notebook

### "How the hell did this happen?"

Bill Weld, needless to say, smells Washington. When he supported California Governor Pete Wilson's disastrous and short-lived presidential bid, many believed he was eyeing the vice-presidency, or perhaps a Cabinet position.

Now Weld is challenging Senator John Kerry in next year's election, and what promises to be one of the more engaging, informal debates between the two will happen right here in Springfield.

WHY-AM talk show host Dan Yorke has announced that he's secured verbal commitments from both candidates to square off on his nightly WGGB-TV television program. "Three guys sitting around shooting the breeze," says Yorke of the planned format. Time and

date have yet to be announced.

Yorke says he was able to secure early commitments from the two men by bypassing their campaign representatives and talking to the two directly. Weld agreed to the debate in a conversation with Yorke on November 30, saying "...if [Kerry] can't make it, we'll do it with an empty chair. How about that?"

Kerry responded on December 5, accepting the debate.

Yorke says his theory of access to politicians is to go right to the "movers and shakers themselves," who he believes ought to be in more direct control of their own campaigns.

"Their respective camps are probably looking at each other and saying, 'how the hell did this happen?'" says Yorke.

While the forum's content will likely depend on what's in the headlines when the two actually appear on the show, Yorke says he will bring up campaign finance. He expects Kerry to spend upwards of \$12 million on the campaign, with Weld trailing by about \$3 or \$4 million. The cost of modern campaigns, Yorke says, is "absolutely obnoxious."

— BG ★



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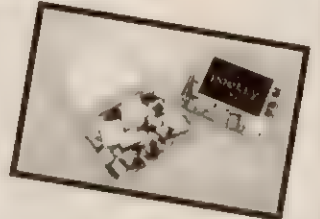


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	Wendy's	(WEN)	21 1/2	19 5/8	
	America Online	(AMER)	64 3/4	33 7/8	
	Boston Beer	(SAM)	*20	23 7/8	+34.75%
A.G. Edwards	Hartford Steam Boiler, Inc	(HSB)	45 7/8	45 3/4	
	Health Source, Inc	(HS)	46 5/8	30 5/8	
	Silicon Graphics	(SGL)	33 7/8	30 1/4	
	Victoria Bankshares	(VICT)	29 3/8	33 1/2	+20.35%
Gage Wiley	Bell Industries	(BI)	22 5/8	21 7/8	
	Burlington Northern	(BNI)	74 7/8	75 1/8	
	Thornburg Mortgage	(TMA)	15	14 7/8	
	LAM Research	(LRGX)	57	48 3/8	-5.46%
Principle Profits	High Plains Corp	(HIPC)	6	4 3/4	
	Healthy Planet Products	(HPP)	11 1/8	8 3/4	-21.17%
	MUTUAL FUND	SYMBOL	10/23/95	12/18/95	+/-
SIS Bank	Fidelity Advisors Growth	(FAGOX)	31.07	30.63	
	N&B Guardian Fund	(NGUAX)	23.74	23.23	
	Vanguard Intl. Growth	(VWIGX)	15.02	15.04	
	Federated GNMA TR ISTL	(FGSSX)	11.19	11.25	-1.07%
Optimist	Fidelity Magellan	(FMAGX)	90.33	83.45	
	Fidelity Select Electronics	(FSELX)	34.07	23.90	
	Accessor Growth	N/A	18.67	18.91	
	PBHG Growth	(PBHGX)	21.72	21.86	-10.12%

\*Boston Beer's initial institutional offering price was \$20 per share. America Online split 2 for 1 on 11/2/95. Health Source, Inc. split 2 for 1 on 12/18/95. The listed stocks were selected at the 10/16/95 closing price, mutual funds were selected at the 10/23/95 closing price. Selections are updated weekly. Stock Watch will be updated by participants in 1/18/96 issue, Mutual Fund Watch will be updated by participants in 1/25/96 issue. Optimist readers who use this information for investment purposes do so at their own risk.



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UPLINK

## Cyberia: Good Intentions

by Paul Bissex

"STOP NUCLEAR TESTS!" it said, in huge block letters that filled the screen. I was in charge of forwarding e-mail messages submitted to an activists' mailing list, and was intrigued by this one from Japan. Below the banner it said:

"This is a chain letter to urge the French government to stop nuclear tests. If you agree with us, please add your name to the bottom of the list, below, and send copies to your friends. We will add up the lists that had (sic) come back to us, and send it to the French Government."

The English wasn't perfect, but the message was clear. At the bottom was a list of names, all students at the University of Tokyo.

Remember hearing the words in the old shampoo commercial, "...and they told two friends, and so on, and so on," as you watched the screen fill up with happy faces? Well, picture how fast that screen fills up when telling ten friends is as easy as telling two, and instead of having to wait until you run into your friends during the week, you can send them an exact copy of the e-mail as soon as you've read it. If each new set of recipients acted on the students' message within 12 hours by sending out just three more copies, within three days the message would have arrived in over 700 new mailboxes — and almost five million by the end of a week.

Powerful stuff. So, what if it gets out of control and you want to stop it?

When I finished reading, I thought for a while about the massive task the students would face in collating lists of names from around the world, and about stories of computer crashes resulting from e-mail overload. I sent an e-mail message to them, and quickly got a form reply. Apparently I was not the first to voice these concerns. In fact, it seemed that, just nineteen days after they started it, the petition was already beyond control:

"Thank you very much for those of you who have pointed out the troublesomeness (sic) about the chain letter. I have decided to stop collecting signatures by using chain letter, but then, I have to use the same method to stop it..."

A notice I received from them two weeks later put it this way:

"We have sent our second chain letter to go after the first one, since that was the only way we could think of to stop the first one from spreading. However this is not working so well, and now many sites around world is (sic) having unnecessarily high traffics and are getting

into troubles (sic)."

The problem is, the retraction is forever on the heels of the original message. By the time someone gets the retraction they probably have already sent out the original petition. And by the time they send the retraction to their friends, those friends may have already forwarded the petition too. It's possible that both of these messages will continue making the rounds for years (or at least until the French stop doing nuclear bomb tests, whichever comes first).

Last week I received another copy of the petition. I told the friend who sent it to me about the retraction, then went back and checked out the list of names. The first dozen or so were the same as on the copy I had received over four months earlier. But from there they were totally different. Scrolling down through the list of names and locations, I could follow the message's path around the world. From Japan it had gone to France, then Holland, then back to France, then over to Germany, down to New Zealand and Australia, then on a tour of American colleges, two or three Italian universities, and finally back to America where, 188 names long, it found me. I didn't pass it on, but I was glad that others had.

It's fitting that, in the 50th anniversary year of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, some Japanese graduate students would try to wave a flag for peace. The best part about this story is that for all the technical troubles, those two students and their friends have remained dedicated to their cause. In August they delivered over 50,000 names to the French embassy in Tokyo, and they aren't finished yet.

### Sites in my Sights

You can visit the site yourself and learn more about the history of the petition (so you know what to say when it shows up in your e-mail box) by pointing your web browser to <http://www.iiijnet.or.jp/nuke/>.

### Don't Just Sit There, Sit There and Do Something

As I trolled the Web finding sites related to banning nuclear weapons, the fact that so many of them are located in Japan became itself a grim historical reminder. Both of the bombed cities have powerful web sites (<http://www.nagasaki-noc.or.jp/na-bomb/na-bombe.html> and <http://www.city.hiroshima.jp/>).

Questions? Comments? Send a letter in care of this publication or drop a line via e-mail to [biscuit@well.com](mailto:biscuit@well.com).

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# HOOPS!



by George Miller

While basketball fans take advantage of the pre-holiday lull in the schedule, attending to such relative inconsequentials as shoveling their walks, tagging their trees, and finding the perfect gift, the UMass Minutemen look forward to shucking their parkas and long johns in favor of leis and floral print shirts. Presents from the off the-wall aunt the family tries not to talk about? Not quite, but they are the preferred garb in Hawaii, where the Minutemen will take part in the annual Rainbow Classic next week. Last year, UMass jetted some 3,800 miles east for a Christmas tournament in France; now, they'll head about 5,000 miles in the other direction. Before they catch some rays on the sands of Waikiki, though, the Minutemen will first visit the site of their last defeat: the unlovely swamps of New Jersey.

With a 6-0 record, its best start to a season since Jack Leaman's 1977-'78 team won its first eight games, UMass squares off against Georgia

entering from foot surgery; slow starts to games which have fortunately preceded fast finishes. Still, it's tough to argue with the end result, and those exhibition games in which UMass' performance was so maligned are only vague memories.

There's even been some time for John Calipari to celebrate Old Home Week. The school where he spent his first two years of college, North Carolina-Wilmington, came to Mullins on December 12, and even managed to lead 8-2 before UMass asserted itself in a 77-51 breeze. Afterward, Calipari laughed off suggestions that he'd now schedule his alma mater, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, but admitted, "We could use a team like Clarion right now."

Off the court, last season's controversial publication of UMass players' grades has recently resurfaced, with the shadowy threat of a lawsuit by six of those players against the university itself. The players in question include five current

**Their shortcomings have not yet cost the Minutemen, and it may be merely nitpicking to itemize them.**

Tech at Meadowlands Arena in the inaugural Jimmy V Classic. The December 22 doubleheader, named after the late North Carolina State coach Jim Valvano, also features Temple and Kansas in the opening game, with the proceeds benefiting cancer research. It was in the Meadowlands that UMass bowed to Oklahoma State in the NCAA East Regional final back in March; this week, they'll be tested by Georgia Tech's precocious freshman Stephon Marbury, who just might make this year his last before opting for the NBA.

UMass' flying start in 1995-96 has created equal measures of surprise and delight among observers both far and near. Their shortcomings have not yet cost the Minutemen, and it may be merely nitpicking to itemize them: too little offensive contribution beyond the starting five; too much reliance on Edgar Padilla and Carmelo Travieso to play productively for 35-plus minutes each night, with Charlton Clarke still recov-

Minutemen Marcus Camby, Donta Bright, Dana Dingle, Tyrone Weeks, and Ted Cottrell, along with Mike Williams, who was dismissed from the team last February. Details of the suit have been few, and the involved parties have predictably clammed up, but if it goes forward, expect both sides to attempt to reach a solution as quickly and as quietly as possible. The university would have up to six months to respond to the plaintiffs, thereby ensuring that the legal process would likely have no effect on the ongoing season. For its part, UMass points to its own internal investigation, and has claimed no responsibility in the release of the transcripts. Their appearance in the pages of the *Boston Globe* 14 months ago was a clear violation of the Buckley Amendment, which safeguards students' academic records. It's not yet known if the six players will target the *Globe* for additional litigation, which would seem the next logical step. ★



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# BEHIND THE STAGE DOOR

Meeting the unsung stars of pre-concert preparations

by Ken Maiuri

**W**hat do nightclubs do during the day? Not relax, that's for sure.

While concertgoers get to recuperate the day after a raucous evening, clubs are back at the beginning of a busy, endless cycle, preparing for the night's festivities. Just like any other place of business, nightspots have a visible work force that deals with customer service (waitstaff, bartenders, ticket-takers, security types) and also a "night crew," the unsung army that puts the place back together and readies it for another attack.

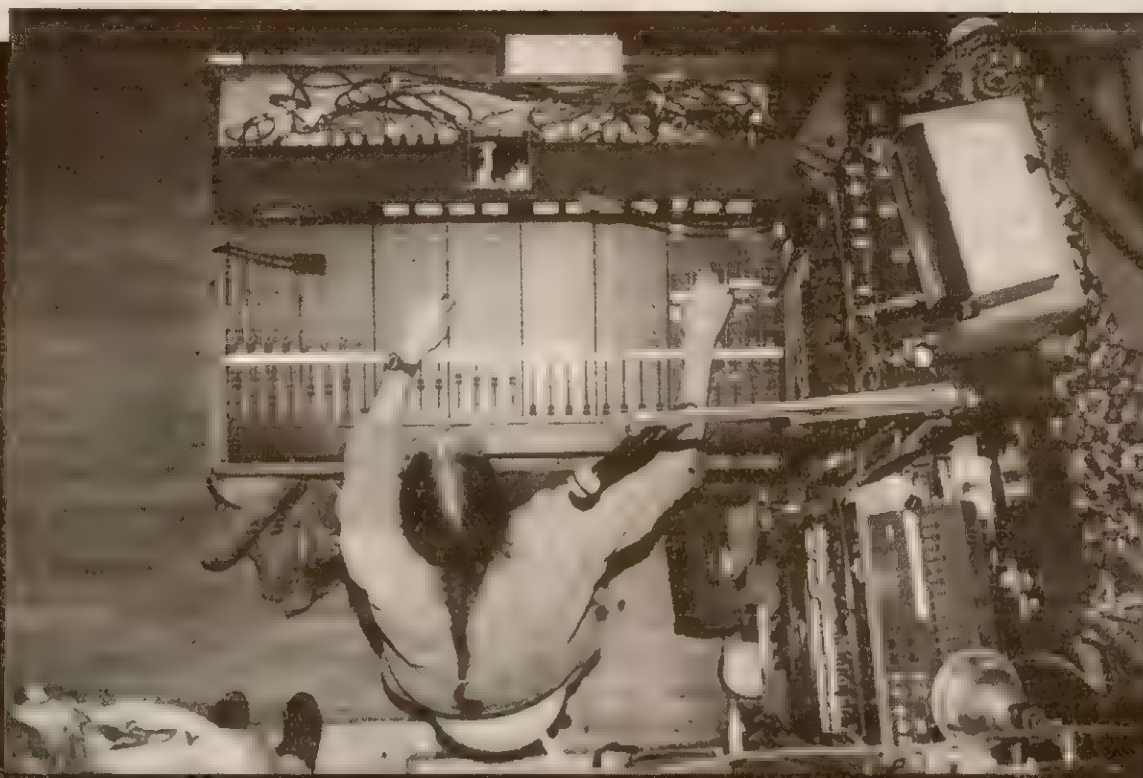
Keeping the troops in line at Pearl Street is the big-dude production manager, 24-year-old Scott Lee. But you can call him Ogre. Everyone else does. And though the nickname was given to him at age nine by his sister, who he had just hit over the head with a Kung Fu lunchbox, he's more than happy to be known as the "Og." "There are a billion Scotts in the world," says Lee. "But Ogre — people remember you."

Even if you don't know him personally, you've probably seen Lee up on the Pearl Street stage, moving equipment between acts, or just holding down the fort. He's a pro: he's worked at the Northampton club for over two years, before that at Katina's for three years, and he started his career ten years ago as a humble loader at the Augora Ballroom in West Hartford, Connecticut. "I was 14 years old, loading Ted Nugent's stuff," he says. "I've been the same size ever since."

As production manager, Lee's got more to do these days than just lug around amplifiers. "I take care of all the hospitality for the band," says Lee. "I tell them what time they're loading in, make sure there are enough people there to load up their equipment... just make sure everything runs very smoothly." All of which takes a lot of work, although the difficulty level depends on just how big the big shot is.

"For example," says Lee, "The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion is very easy. It takes about a half-hour on the phone for production, plus four or five guys, including a sound man, for the whole day working on [the show] for set changes and stuff; that's a smaller scale show. But for a Filter type show, it takes a couple hours on the phone, renting barricades, making sure we have enough staff on because it's a high-security show; all the arrangements have to be perfect. On that scale, it's almost Civic Center type of work."

"But then we get bands like Fugazi in here,"



Easy on the bass — The sound board at the Iron Horse in Northampton.

Lee continues, "and they're like, 'Uh, could we get some bottled water? We'll load our own equipment in and we'll be there a couple hours before the show to get some levels for a sound-check. We'll play, then give us our money and we'll leave.' They're the nicest people in the

out of their backstage supply. While no Pearl Street booking has quite achieved that level of super-spoiled stardom, the things that performers want in their dressing rooms (these things are known as a "rider") run from the obvious to the just plain weird, and Lee has

**Scott Lee, production manager at Pearl St., has seen his share of odd band requests. "The biggest [one] I've ever seen had to be for Squeeze. They wanted five different types of cheese: one had to be from Germany, one had to be from Switzerland, it had to be cut in a certain way on certain crackers; they wanted four cases of beer, two had to be imported... this is something we have to set up and provide for them!"**

world to work with."

Fugazi is content with spring water from a local supermarket; other bands are more, shall we say, high-maintenance. Everyone knows the Van Halen legend, when David Lee Roth demanded that all the brown M&Ms be taken

seen his share of odd rider requests. "I've seen people ask for condoms, tube socks, fresh underwear, cigarettes, beer," he says. "The biggest rider I've ever seen had to be for Squeeze. They wanted five different types of cheese: one had to be from Germany, one had to be from Switzerland,

it had to be cut in a certain way on certain crackers; they wanted four cases of beer, two had to be imported... this is something we have to set up and provide for them!"

Lee stresses the amount of effort that goes into every show. "There are so many people who don't get credit for the concert," he says. "You get these [performers] who get up onstage and play for an hour and a half and walk offstage, but there are people who work as hard as them, who are working for half as much money, for ten times as many hours. Technical people, sound people — they're here for hours beforehand making sure everything is perfect." And as far as technical people go, none are more respected than Dan Richardson, the stage manager and house engineer at the Iron Horse Music Hall. Richardson has manned the soundboard at the Horse and occasionally the Bay State Cabaret, as well as doing sound professionally in Chicago for 12 years before

moving to this area in 1991. Yet with all his high-profile jobs (know that mysterious, mellow voice at the Iron Horse that courteously announces the performer? Richardson.), the house engineer never had any training.

"I went to school for everything else," he says. "Engineering, pre-dentistry, a bachelor of fine arts in sculpture, a technical degree in electronics."

Richardson's experience started when he was a member of a bluegrass band in Minneapolis. "We spent the summer driving around in a van, going to bars and asking them if we could unplug the jukebox," he says. "We brought along a pile of various people's stereos and used it for a sound system. I was the one who knew how to hook the stereos up, so I was the sound guy."

But isn't the Iron Horse's highly regarded sound system a bit more involved than a portable pile of stereos? Richardson explains that the basic principles are the same. No problem.

"It was a completely evolutionary thing: playing in bands, using small equipment, going into bars and using bigger equipment, moving down the line to a mixing board," he says. "Nobody showed me how to do it."

Besides, there are important qualities that a good sound engineer must have, above and beyond technical know-how. "You need patience and a sense of humor," says Richardson with a smile. "I used to drink too much coffee before gigs. And that was always a bad idea."

You also need drive, and Richardson's intern, 24-year-old Asya Perkins, has the market cor-

—continued on next page



nered on sheer enthusiasm for concert sound. "I've always loved music, but never wanted to play it," she says. "I figured I'm just a listener."

Perkins got a job busing tables at the Iron Horse so she could be around music all the time. And then came the epiphany. "I'd be watching Dan and think, 'Man, that would be the greatest job in the world!' And it is."

The unemployed Perkins has been assisting Richardson for two months (hers is an unpaid position), and also interns at a neighboring club. "I can wire the stage [that is, set up all the mikes and instruments into the appropriate channels that go into the board so it all comes out of the PA], and I'm interning down at Pearl Street, too; there you have to know how to wire the whole system, because they have to move their PA upstairs and downstairs. It's very technical. I'm not a very technical person. But I've wanted to do sound since I was seven years old. My parents would let me skip school, so I'd stay home and wear headphones and listen to records. But I figured to do sound, you had to be a guy—and go to tech school and have a ponytail."

(Although, as fate would have it, Richardson does indeed sport the occasional ponytail, the hairstyle is completely optional.)

"I just love [my job]," said Perkins. "It's the first time I've ever really used my brain. I went to school for psychology, but that wasn't challenging. This is challenging. It's like, what makes the sound come out, what makes it happen? You look at the board, and there's all this shit going on, all these lights. And some of the people who are coming through, who I'm working with, setting up the stage for, it's just like, 'wow!' And I'm starting to understand the mechanics of sound; there's a really spiritual aspect of it and a technical aspect

of it."

Though she's a bit concerned with her dwindling savings, Perkins remains enthusiastic about doing sound. "This is really like my dream happening. It sounds cheesy, but it's true. This is something that I thought would never happen in my life. It's a lot of work, but it's cool. I'm really excited."

Richardson says the average concertgoer would be astonished at "the sheer amount of time that goes into [preparing for a show]. Between advancing the show with the artist, working on the sound system, setting it up, [doing a] sound check, babysitting the room before the show, running the show, tearing it down... frequently a show is a 10 or 12 hour day. For two hours of music."

And since Richardson does all that seven days a week, how does it affect the non-job part of his life? "I don't exactly go to too many other concerts," he laughs. "I listen to talk radio in the car."

Although Richardson expresses a fondness for low frequencies ("I like it when it goes thump," he says), his favorite part of his job is the people. "Working with bands, it's a lot more important for me to get along with the people than it is to particularly like the music that they're doing."

Of course, not every band or performer is pleasant. Sometimes there's even a David Lee Roth type. "The single main drawback to being the house guy is that you have to work with whoever walks up on that stage," said Richardson. "No matter who they are or what their attitude is, you have to make it work."

Being the patient, easygoing sound guy that he is, Richardson has the answer. "In the case of a bad experience with an artist or a guest engineer, it's good to keep in mind that in a couple hours, they'll be gone," he says. "And somebody nicer will come in." ★

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## Art

### No Laughing Matter

Erwin Rommel, World War II era Nazi general, also known as the Desert Fox because of his military successes in North Africa, strides with a devil-may-care attitude into a British hospital, astonishing the German captives there. Later, under heavy fire, he leads a reconnaissance mission into British territory. He comes back with nary a scratch. In Poland, teenagers are systematically shot in the backs of their heads for distributing anti-Nazi posters. In Russia, captured civilians — men, women, and children — are herded into trenches and German soldiers throw grenades in after them. Scores of people are burned alive in their homes by the Germans, while Jews and other "undesirables" die by the millions in concentration camps. In 1945, as the war nears its end, Rommel is implicated in a failed assassination attempt on Hitler. He is given the choice of either facing a tribunal or committing suicide. He chooses the latter.

This isn't the synopsis of a documentary on the life of Erwin Rommel. These are descriptions of panels from a comic book story by Wally Wood, a famous illustrator who worked for Entertainment Comics (EC) Publishing in the 1950s.

EC was headed by William M. Gaines, who later went on to create *Mad Magazine*. Gaines, along with his editor, Al Feldstein, established their reputation with the publication of a horror series called "New Trend." Although they weren't the first horror comics, *Vault of Horror*, *Haunt of Fear*, and *Crypt of Terror* (later renamed *Tales from the Crypt*), went on to become the best known horror comics of all time. The extraordinary success of the horror comics prompted Gaines and his new editor and artist, Harvey Kurtzman, to produce *Two-Fisted Tales* and *Frontline Combat*, war comics written for servicemen and would-be servicemen.

Readers of EC's popular crime and horror series were attracted to the realistic violence portrayed in the war comics — so realistic that the comics make an effective anti-war statement. Accuracy and detail were two of Kurtzman's manias. Says Fiona Russell, curator of the Words and Pictures Museum in Northampton, "Kurtzman was known for being hard-nosed about detail. He's quoted as saying that if he had to draw a submarine, he and the artist went down into a sub to see what it was really like rather than just drawing one out of his head."

A current exhibit at the Words and Pictures Museum features the original black-and-white science fiction and war comics. Russell says, "They're a popular area of comics. They're the finest of the comics and they employed the finest artists working. I think there will always be a stigma attached to illustration, but this is definitely an art form that is gaining more respect."

Many of the EC, originals were bought at Sotheby's or Christies whose auctions of comics and ephemera have become very popular. Russell says, "Comics are becoming more

respected because people don't give them up at 12 and 13 anymore. As the readers aged, the stories became more sophisticated."

*The Classics Comics Exhibit at the Words & Pictures Museum of Fine Sequential Art features some of the best known comic artists, including Frank Frazetta, Jack Davis, and George Evans. The exhibit will run through January. Winter hours are: Tuesday through Thursday, 12-5; Friday, 12-8; Saturday, 10-8; and Sunday 12-5. The museum is closed Mondays. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and seniors, \$1 for kids under 18. Museum members get in free.*

— Karen Shoffner

## Folk

### Free at Last

"Yes. My whole music career is based on spite," says 42-year-old singer-songwriter Greg Greenway, a Virginian now living in Boston.

The beginnings of Greenway's musical career are indeed rooted in sibling rivalry. When Greenway was eight, his older brother got a ukelele for his birthday, which he forbade Greenway to play. "Of course, I waited for him to leave. As soon as he would leave, I would note the position the ukelele was left in, and then I would play. Then I'd put it back exactly as I had found it, so I would not get pummeled."

Greenway was a better player than his brother right from the start. He doesn't know whether to attribute his ability to physiology or motivation, but he says, "I'm sure it happens in some way to everybody. There's something they can do right away at a level that's really pleasing. That's what happened for me and the guitar... I picked the thing up and went, 'Oh. This makes perfect sense.'"

After knocking around the folk circuit for several years, Greenway's star seems to be rising at last. He has shared the stage with his first hero, Richie Havens, as well as Cheryl Wheeler, Arlo Guthrie, Greg Brown, The Story, and Patty Larkin, to name a few. His fifth CD, *Singing for the Landlord*, was released this fall. It showcases his prodigious guitar-playing skills and powerful voice, which is as smooth as a fine cigar on the draw. He combines the fire of gospel, the laid-back lyricism of James Taylor, and the rhythms of South Africa into one package.

His songs range from the winsome "Icarus," a song inspired by W.H. Auden's poem "Musée des Beaux Arts" (which in turn was inspired by Pieter Breughel's painting "Landscape with the Fall of Icarus") to "Under the Night Forever Falling," an African-inspired tune, to "One Man, One Woman, One Vote," which Greenway wrote on the occasion of the first free elections in South Africa.

Greenway's interest in South Africa was sparked the day Nelson Mandela came to Boston after being freed from prison. "I think [it's] probably because I grew up in the South. It's hard to explain to anyone who has never lived there, but there's this tremendous dichotomy. On the one hand, [people] are extremely polite. I was taught to be totally polite to every living human being no matter what, but then





**Singer-songwriter Greg Greenway fashions a career out talent, hard work — and spite.**

when you start speaking in general, there's a tremendously racist situation. A lot of the examination for me has been about race. Years ago, I heard a song by Gil Scott-Heron called 'Johannesburg.' I also saw a program that showed a guard house on the edge of the city, and blacks were having their passes checked on their way into the city. It just didn't look right."

He wrote "Free At Last," which is on his fourth CD, in honor of Mandela's freedom. "One Man, One Woman, One Vote" was written in three hours before a gig in Virginia. In attendance was Robert Kennedy's widow, Ethel, who had traveled to South Africa to meet with black leaders after her husband had been banned from that country. "The response to the song was great, and I got to talk with Ethel a little bit after the show. She was extremely nice, very low-key. You would never pick this person out as the most famous person in the room."

And Greenway's brother would probably not have picked Greenway out as the most talented ukelele player in the room when they were children. But, as Greenway's songs imply, there's always room to expand your mind.

Greg Greenway opens for Dar Williams at the Iron Horse on Friday, December 22 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door, and are available at the Northampton Box Office, Thornes Marketplace, 586-8686 or 1-800-THE-TICK.

— Matthew Mackenzie

## Rock

### Naked and Dancing

Getting into the spirit of things, the Kevin Sysyn Band has released the *Christmas Sampler* of their independent label, Frying Pan Records, just in time for the holidays.

Sysyn and company contribute two original Christmas songs to the sampler: "Rock Me, Santa," a real honky-tonk, foot-stomping number, propelled by John (J.T.) McKenna's hard-driving drumming, and "Let's Put Up the Tree," which again features Kevin Sysyn, who sounds like a peppy and less self-conscious Chris Isaak. Other band members are Chris Wood on bass

and Bob Halprein on lead and slide guitar and harmonica. *The Optimist* spoke with Valley dwellers McKenna and Hal Benoit, a singer-songwriter who sits in with the band.

*Optimist: How long have you been playing in bands?*

John McKenna: I started playing in bands when I was 10 years old. A couple of high school kids in my neighborhood came and knocked on my door and asked my parents where the drummer was. I'd been practicing and they heard me. My parents were good enough to bring me down and said, "Here he is." They asked me to join the band. When I was 11 years old, I was playing high school dances. They'd introduce me as their little brother.

*O: Did they corrupt you?*

(Lots of laughter.)

Hal Benoit: He screwed them all up.

McKenna: I went to this party where there was a bottle of Boone's Farm or Strawberry Hill and it was passed around. It was quite a scandal. Yeah, I think I might have had a hit off that.

Benoit: But he didn't swallow.

*O: Of the musicians you know locally, regionally, or nationally, whose career would like to emulate?*

McKenna: I've worked a lot with the surviving members of the Drifters, the Coasters, the Marvelettes, the Shirelles, just about every act that had a Top Ten hit from 1955 to 1968. I've seen a lot of these people whose careers peaked real early and then went into a lifetime plateau. I work with Charlie Thomas, one of the original Drifters. Charlie's a consummate showman. Every time I work with him I watch and learn. And yet here's a guy whose career, by the time he was 25 or 26, had gone as far as it was ever going to go. He didn't let it destroy him. He does fund-raisers for municipal fire departments and at schools for audiences of 2,000 to 5,000. When these guys were teenagers, they were playing the biggest shows at the time, but it doesn't matter in the slightest. As he says when he hands you a hundred-dollar bill, "Sure beats working, doesn't it, son?" You're right, I guess it does.

Benoit: The problem with rock is that there aren't that many people to emulate. The guys who have had successful careers pay an incredible personal price. I think that's an aspect of the business that's affected generations of musicians, like the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, Chuck Berry. To see what happened to them is a frightening thing. You just have to make good music for as long as you possibly can.

*O: Your show at the Green River Café is billed as a Christmas show. What's in store for the audience?*

Benoit: Cut back on the nude thing.

McKenna: It's a family thing this time.

Benoit: John does play nude, but he's sitting down so you can't tell.

McKenna: A Green Day tribute. It's billed as a Christmas show because of the date's prox-

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Dance naked with The Kevin Sysyn Band at the Green River Café.

imity to Christmas. We do our Christmas numbers, our two numbers from the *Christmas Sampler*, and we do a whole bunch of other R & B Christmas classics. We do "Run, Run, Rudolph," "Merry Christmas, Baby," Jingle Bell Rock," Clarence Carter's "Back Door Santa." We do the Chuck Berry version of Charles Brown's "Merry Christmas, Baby." We do the Keith Richard version of Chuck Berry's "Run, Run, Rudolph." There's a lot of derivation involved there. We'll have our *Christmas Sampler* there, and we'll be actively promoting that.

Benoit: It's definitely rock and roll Christmas stuff.

McKenna: Yeah, straight ahead rock and roll, really more R & B — R & B in the classic sense, not in the modern sense. I forget now that R & B has a new meaning. It's not like the Boys II Men stuff, as hip as that is. We just can't sing that good. We'll do a lot of our other, more secular original music and a lot of the R & B stuff we do as our regular show. We also do a lot of dance music, and being a drummer, it's my mission in life to make people dance.

Benoit: Actually, being a drummer, his mission in life is to get women to take their clothes off while he's playing. Then he knows he's doing well.

McKenna: That's true. If I can get them to dance, I'm on the right track. If I can get them naked and dancing, then I've —

O: I thought this was a family show.

McKenna: Okay, families naked and dancing.

The Kevin Sysyn Band will be playing its Christmas show at the Green River Café on 24 Federal Street in Greenfield on Friday, December 22, at 9 p.m., admission is \$6. Call 413-773-3313 for reservations.

— KS

## Blues

### Nomad's Land

Mark Nomad was struck by a blue lightning bolt when he first heard the blues. "I just think the intensity of it hit me over the head when I first heard it in the '60s. The heart-felt emotion of the music really struck me. It

just seemed to be coming from a no-nonsense, mature place," says the local blues man.

Nomad, who has written for *db*, an international music magazine, is devoting a lot of his time to his music career now that his latest CD, *Got to Carry On*, has been released. Nomad found the recording process satisfying — especially now that it's done. Half of the tracks on *Got to Carry On* were done in the studio, and half were done live. Nomad says, "I wanted to capture that live feeling that is really hard to get in the studio. Sometimes when you're in the studio, you just want to get through the take. You don't have the benefit of an audience egging you on and it's not as much fun. All of those things enter into the equation."

Between Nomad's original "contemporary blues" compositions and his live cover recordings, *Got to Carry On* is an electrifying Mississippi Delta blues ride. Nomad's energetic guitar picking and scowling vocals, sometimes supported by mournful harmonica, wailing saxophone, bass, and drums, make their own mark on the genre.

Nomad, born Mark Maulucci, took a stage name to really get into the blues groove. "Many of the great blues men had blues names — Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf. In the '80s, I was in Chicago jamming with Jimmie Johnson's band, and they wanted to introduce me. I'm of Italian background, and I knew they weren't going to be able to pronounce my name, so I'd been thinking about the name. It came out that night, and it's been that way ever since." He's very proud of his real name, but, he says, "It just doesn't roll off the tongue in the blues world."

Nomad has thrown himself into that world with passion. The blues have made their mark on him, just as he has left his own stamp on the blues genre. "The sheer intensity and honesty of the music and the real strong feeling — it was very satisfying to hear. Its just got this timeless quality. It sounded very familiar to me when I first heard it and yet it sounded so real and 'now.' I love all kinds of music, but this is the music that I love to play."

The Mark Nomad Band shares the bill with Hot Hammer Soup and Wildcat O'Halloran for Pearl Street's Blue Christmas on Saturday,



Paula Barron



Bluesman Mark Nomad shares the healing power of the blues.

December 23, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$6 at the door.

— KS

## Theater

### Broadway's Cookin' with Barbara

Back in the '50s, Barbara Cook was the quintessential Broadway musical ingenue, creating the roles of Cunegonde ("Glitter and Be Gay") in Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* and Marian (the librarian) in *The Music Man*. For two decades, she was the toast of the town with starring roles in *She Loves Me*, *Carousel*, and *Showboat*. Over the years, she's turned to cabaret and recordings, keeping her Broadway standards alive and well, and bringing new interpretations to other gems in the great American songbook. Her indelible performances include her 1985 New York Philharmonic appearance opposite Mandy Patinkin in Stephen Sondheim's *Follies*, her collection of Walt Disney songs on the MCA label, and two current chart-busters, *Barbara Cook... Live from London* and *Barbara Cook... The Broadway Years* on the DRG label. Along the way, she's won a Tony, a Grammy, a Drama

Desk Award, and a recent induction into the Broadway Hall of Fame. Much of her success is due to her 20-year collaboration with arranger/accompanist Wally Harper, who is equally regarded in the Broadway arena, as musical director, arranger, composer, and/or conductor for some of the biggest hits in recent years, among them *Grand Hotel*, *My One and Only*, and *Company*.

Cook and Harper bring an evening of Broadway to the Hartford Symphony Pops on January 12 and 13 at The Bushnell. For tickets: 860-246-6807.

— Mark G. Auerbach

### Come and Meet Those Dancin' Feet — 42nd Street Kicks Off Revival Tour at the Bushnell

42nd Street was one of Broadway's longest-running musicals of the 1980s, the last in a series of hits for producer David Merrick, and the final (and finest) musical staged by Gower Champion, the legendary dancer-turned-director (Champion died on opening night). Based on the famous Warner Brothers musical, 42nd Street is one of those typical "backstage" musicals, where the star breaks her leg before opening night, and the understudy goes on to become a star. The score includes the standards "Lullaby of Broadway," "We're in the Money," and "Shuffle Off to Buffalo." Champion's staging of these Busby Berkeley numbers, complete with flashy costumes and expert tap dancing, won the Tony Award. This revival tour of 42nd Street is produced by The Troika Organization, the same folks who produced the top-notch tour of *The Will Rogers Follies*, currently making the rounds of New England theaters. Tony Parise, choreographer of the Off-Broadway musical *Pageant*, a performer in the original Broadway production of 42nd Street, and choreographer and director of several 42nd Street companies in the US, London, Australia, and (most recently) New Zealand, recreates the Champion magic.

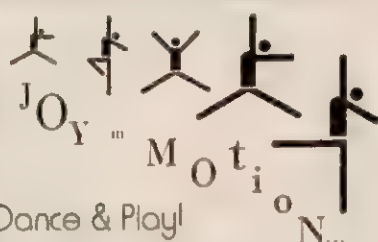
42nd Street plays the Bushnell from January 16–21. For tickets: 860-246-6807.

— MGA ★

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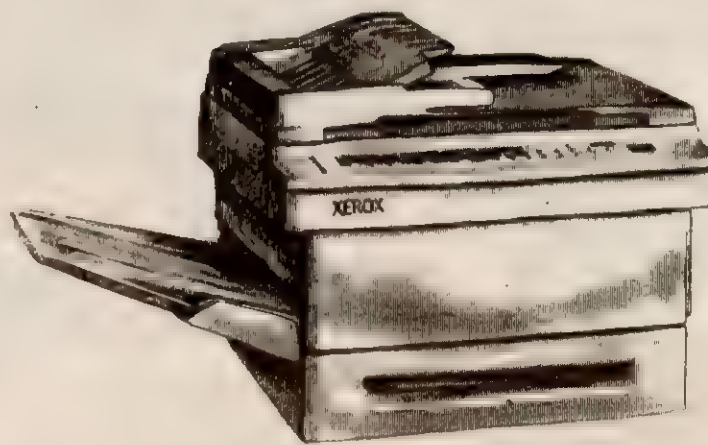
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## THURSDAY DECEMBER 21

**Bay State Cabaret** 41 Strong Avenue Northampton, 584-8513. *Truck* with *Ostrich Farm* Southern flavored funk, 10 p.m. 21+.

**Black Sheep Café** 79 Main Street, Amherst 263-0679. Jay Ducharme with Karen Dion, open music must goes zany, 8 p.m.

**Club Metro** 492 Pleasant Street, Northampton, 582-9898. Extremos Productions presents *Five Spot Lounge* featuring *Trailer Park*, New Orleans flavored mythm and blues, 9 p.m.

**Fire and Water**, 5 Old South Street, Northampton 586-8336. *yeP!* local heroes of synesthesia rock, 9 p.m.

**Green River Café** 24 Federal Street, Greenfield 773-3313. *Klezmer*, a sixth night of Chanukah. *Chasidic* polka with *Nichelle Eastern* on violin. *Chasidic* 8-10 p.m.

**The Grotto** 25 West Street, Northampton 586-8600. *Seaside* with *Shirley* and *Paul*, 8 p.m. 18+.

**Madley Pub** 110 E. Hadley, 586-2960. Open mic night with *Robert O'Halloran*, 9:30 p.m. - 1 a.m. 18+.

**Katina's** Rte. 9, Hadley 586-4463. *Selections* from *the 60's*, 10 p.m.

**Mole's Eye Café** 4 High Street, Brattleboro, 802-257-0700. *Open mic* night, 8:30 p.m.

**Pearl Street** 10 Pearl Street, Northampton 584-7771. 18+ dance party, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

**Theodore's** 251 Westchester Street, Springfield 734-6000. *Jazz* with *John and the Band*, steel cutting jazz, 9 p.m.

## FRIDAY DECEMBER 22

**Bay State Cabaret** 41 Strong Avenue Northampton, 584-8513. *Truck* with *Ostrich Farm* Southern flavored funk, 10 p.m. 21+.

**Black Sheep Café** 79 Main Street, Amherst 263-0679. Jay Ducharme with Karen Dion, open music must goes zany, 8 p.m.

**Club Metro** 492 Pleasant Street, Northampton, 582-9898. Extremos Productions presents *Five Spot Lounge* featuring *Trailer Park*, New Orleans flavored mythm and blues, 9 p.m.

**Common Ground** 25 Elliott St., Brattleboro, 802-257-0700. *Open mic* night with *Robert O'Halloran*, 9:30 p.m. - 1 a.m. 18+.

**Fire and Water** Union Arena, Springfield 8 p.m. *Live* vocal entertainment, 9 p.m. - *Dave Mullen* and *the jazz masters*, 10 p.m.

**Green River Café** 24 Federal Street, Greenfield 773-3313. *Seaside* with *Shirley* and *Paul*, 8 p.m. 18+.

**The Grotto** 25 West Street, Northampton 586-8600. *Seaside* with *Shirley* and *Paul*, 8 p.m. 18+.

**Hadley Pub** 110 E. Hadley, 586-2960. *Open mic* night with *Robert O'Halloran*, 9:30 p.m. - 1 a.m. 18+.

**Iron Horse** 20 Center Street, Northampton 586-8666/800 THE TICK. *Dave Williams* with *Greg Greenwood*. *Dave* back in a European tour with *Joan Baez* and rolling D's. *Horse* with killer folk, 7 p.m.

**Katina's** Rte. 9, Hadley 586-4463. *Selections* from *the 60's*, 10 p.m.

**The Latchie Grill** 6 Flat Street, Brattleboro (802) 254-4747. *The Patty Corp* enter *the* plays jazz a la *sweeter*, 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

**Mole's Eye Café** 4 High Street, Brattleboro, 802-257-0700. *Open mic* night, 8:30 p.m.



Truck barrels through your stereo like a tornado straight outta Greenfield. Hit the pause button and listen — this band is good. Christopolis, Jim Roberge, and Matthew Kim click well together, producing tight raw funk. The lyrics grind with passion and are refreshingly distinct from the energetic guitars. Ostrich Farm open way for Truck to drive on through the Bay State Cabaret in Northampton (584-8513) on Thursday December 21 at 10 p.m. look for their very first CD to be released everywhere soon.

**Pearl Street** "Death Before Christmas" Colorful Productions presents *Exhumed*, *Perpetual Doom*, *Dead*, *Yard*, *Trailer Park*, *Madley*, and *Hadley*, 9:30 p.m. All ages. 21+ Retro dance night 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

**Pioneer Valley Brew Pub** 57 Taylor Street, Springfield 441-732 BREW. *The Mark Mores*, *The Springfield's* jazz and blues, 8 p.m. - midnight.

**Red Basket Restaurant** Rte. 10, Southampton 527-9863. *Cool Breeze*, oldies rock, 9 p.m. - midnight.

**Theodore's** Theodore's Christmas party with *The Susan Tedeschi Band*, 10 p.m.

## SATURDAY DECEMBER 23

**Bay State Cabaret** 41 Strong Avenue Northampton, 584-8513. *Truck* with *Ostrich Farm* Southern flavored funk, 10 p.m. 21+.

**Club Metro** 492 Pleasant Street, Northampton, 582-9898. Extremos Productions presents *Five Spot Lounge* featuring *Trailer Park*, New Orleans flavored mythm and blues, 9 p.m.

**Fire and Water** 5 Old South Street, Northampton 586-8336. *yeP!* local heroes of synesthesia rock, 9 p.m.

## MONDAY DECEMBER 24

**Bay State Cabaret** 41 Strong Avenue Northampton, 584-8513. *Truck* with *Ostrich Farm* Southern flavored funk, 10 p.m. 21+.



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ART STEELE BAND (down)  
1/8 MARILYN MANSON  
The Lunachicks  
1/13 WAR  
1/19 MEPHISKAPHILES  
1/20 J. GEILS BLUES TIME  
1/26 AIMEE MANN

Tickets for all shows available at Northampton  
Box office 586-8556, 1-800-THE-TICK,  
Strawberries, For The Record in Amherst,  
About Music in Greenfield  
Tip Unlimited at U. Mass.  
16 Pearl Street, Northampton 413-584-7771

**THE FINEARTS CENTER**  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
AT AMHERST

**Friday, February 9**  
Direct From Havana - Truly Incendiary  
**National Cuban Folkloric**  
**Dance Ensemble**  
Concert Hall, 8pm.  
Presented with the generous support  
of Cable Advertising and Community  
Health Plan

**Sunday, February 11**  
The Incomparable and  
World Renown  
**Guarnieri String Quartet**  
Bowker Auditorium, 7pm  
Presented with the generous support of WFCR 88.5 FM

**Thursday, February 15**  
Grammy-nominated banjo/guitarist Brown gives Bela Fleck a  
run for his money  
**The Alison Brown Quartet**  
Bowker Auditorium, 8pm  
Presented with the generous support of The Recorder

FOR TICKET INFO CALL FAC BOX OFFICE  
(413) 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS  
Visa/Mastercard accepted

**OPEN 7  
DAYS A  
WEEK  
5-1**

**THE GROTTTO**

Thurs. 12/21: **SEXILES, LITTLE JOHN**  
Fri: **Gay Night**, 18+ Dancing 9-1  
(no cover before 2:30)  
Sat 12/23: **Dancing 9-1**  
Sat 12/30: **IPC Presents, THE UNBAND**  
with **MOTHER HOLLY**  
& **KILL THE CARRIER**  
**New Years Eve: THE COYOTES with**  
**LOVE MINUS ZERO**  
**BAR • NIGHTCLUB**  
25 West Street • Northampton  
586-6900

**BAY STATE CABARET**  
at the  
**BAY STATE HOTEL**  
41 Strong Ave., Northampton, 584-8513

*Bay State Electric Open: no cover*  
featuring **MANTA RAY**  
sign up at 9 pm

Weds. 12/20:

Thurs. 12/21: **TRUCK, OSTRICH FARM**

Fri. 12/22: **a CHECK, PLEASE! Christmas**

Sat. 12/23: **Legal Holiday Show:**  
**FLAPS DOWN, 4-FIVE-1**

Fri. 12/29: **NOHO Records presents**  
**ROCK CITY SOUND,**  
**SCOTT UGON, KATE O'CONNOR**

Sat. 12/30: **EQUALITIES**

Sun. 12/31: **New Year's Eve:**  
**ANGRY JOHNNY & THE KILLBILLES,**  
**MISS REED, MAL THURSDAY & THE CHEETAHS**

**EVERY MONDAY IS BLUE MONDAY** with  
**ED VADAS, THE FABULOUS HEAVYWEIGHTS**  
absolutely free blues, Never a cover charge

Schedule is subject to change. All shows 21+.



# Valley Music



Kim Paquette

## TUESDAY DECEMBER 26

**Green River Café** Open stage with host **Rob Skelton**, 8 p.m.  
Sign up, 7:30 p.m.  
**Iron Horse** Kips Bay Ceili Band, making magic with Irish sweet harmonies, 7 p.m.  
**Northampton Brewery** 11 Brewster Court, Northampton 584-9903. Open mike night with **David 13**, 10 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.  
**Pearl Street** Snapcase with **Despair**, straight edge hardcore show, 7:30 p.m. All ages.

## WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 27

**Club Metro**, Gay night with **Steve Kolak**, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. 21+  
**Fire and Water** "Word on Wednesday" poetry open mike featuring **Keith Snow**, 8 p.m. Sign up at 6:30 p.m. **Bud Collins**, a crazy cacophony of fun, 10 p.m.  
**Iron Horse** Stanley Jordan, jazz guitar virtuoso scaling the frets, 7 p.m.  
**Mole's Eye Café** The Lustré Kings, a holiday mid-week party, 8 p.m.  
**Pearl Street** Gay dance night, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. 21+

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY:**  
**EURO UNDERGROUND DANCE MUSIC**  
**THURSDAY DEC. 21st, 5 SPOT LOUNGE TRAILER PARK**  
**WEDNESDAY DEC. 20TH:**  
**SOMETHING DIVINE, GAY NIGHT**  
**THURSDAY DEC. 28th, 5 SPOT LOUNGE**  
**STEVE WESTFIELD & THE SLOW BAND**  
**OPEN UNTIL 2:00AM**

**WORLD-CLASS SOUND & LIGHTS**



**CLUB METRO**

492 PLEASANT STREET  
NORTHAMPTON, MA  
(ACROSS FROM THE OATS INN)  
TEL (413) 582-9898

## DECEMBER 25

Blue Monday with Ed Vadas  
Heavyweights 21+

## Yin' Here! Live Acoustic Music Line-Up

**OPEN NIGHT** 10 - 12:30 am  
**OPEN MIC NIGHT** Tuesdays 10 - 12:30 am

## DECEMBER 31

's Eve Party  
MBIK & STASH

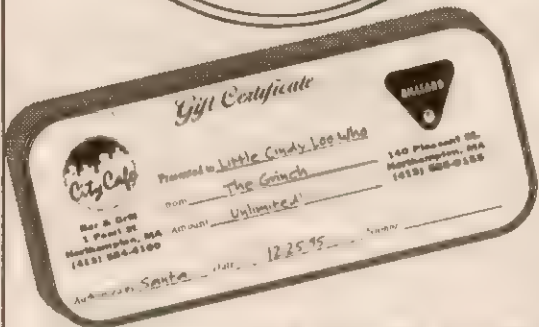
**DECEMBER 26**  
• TBA

584-9903 "It's the Only Beer in Town!"



**FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS**  
**10pm to 3am**  
88 Pleasant St. Northampton

**HARRY'S pizzeria**  
PIZZA • SUBS • SLICES  
Open till 2 A.M.  
Thursday - Saturday



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
**FROM EVERYONE AT CITY CAFE**  
  
Dance-Club / Bar & Billiards  
1 Pearl St. Northampton  
**586-9155**

## KATINA'S NIGHTCLUB

RT. 9 HADLEY • 413/586-4463 Take I-91 to Rt. 9 East

<b>THURS.</b>	<b>SELECTROCUTION</b> Dance Party	High-Tech Flirtation!	<b>SUN.</b>	<b>Closed For Christmas Eve</b>	
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>SKA FESTIVAL</b> Featuring SMA		<b>Happy Holidays From</b> <b>KATINA'S</b> <i>NIGHTCLUB</i>		
<b>SAT.</b>	<b>SELECTROCUTION</b> Dance Party	High Tech Flirtation!			

## DECEMBER at MULINO'S

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Weds.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>MULINO'S DOWNSTAIRS</b> HOMESTYLE ITALIAN COOKING						
<b>Piano Bar &amp; Smoking Lounge</b> 21 Center Street Northampton MA. 413-586-8900						
31. Patty Carpenter	Live Entertainment Weekly, Full Liquor License					
7. Annie Wenz	8. Sandy Mandel & The Little Big Band	9. Patty Carpenter	1. Annie Wenz	2. Patty Carpenter	3. Sandy Mandel & The Little Big Band	4. Patty Carpenter
14. Annie Wenz	15. Annie Wenz	16. Patty Carpenter	21. Annie Wenz	22. Sandy Mandel & The Little Big Band	23. David Gregory	24. Patty Carpenter
28. Annie Wenz	29. Sandy Mandel & The Little Big Band	30. Patty Carpenter	28. Annie Wenz	29. Sandy Mandel & The Little Big Band	30. Patty Carpenter	

## IRON HORSE MUSIC HALL

All Ages, All The Time!  
WED 20 Dance w/Valley's Finest  
**WRSI HOMEGROWN DANCE PARTY** 7 pm ★  
FRI 22 Christians and Pagans Tour  
**DAR WILLIAMS**  
plus **GREG GREENWAY** 7 pm  
SAT 23 Rock and Roll Royalty  
**BO DIDDLEY** 7 & 10 pm  
DEC 24 & 25 No Ho Ho! Closed for Xmas

## Five Nights of First Night!

**Countdown to 1996...**  
Tuesday 26 7pm  
Guinness Import Company presents Celtic Pub Band  
**KIPS BAY CEILI BAND**  
with **Pat Kilbride**  
Wednesday 27 7pm  
Virtuoso jazz guitar  
**STANLEY JORDAN**  
Friday 29 7pm  
Friday Night Blues Party  
**DUKE ROBILLARD**  
Saturday 30 8:00pm  
Catanount Brewing Co. presents  
**NRBQ**  
and area debut of Catanount Pair Aie  
Sunday 31  
Blue New Year Celebration!  
**LUTHER GUITAR JR. JOHNSON**  
7pm show & 10pm Champagne Show open 'til 2 am  
Special New Year's Eve Menu

JAN 3 Alternative Strings: Cello & violin  
**GIDEON FREUDMANN**  
plus **CARYN LIN**  
TUE 4 Melodic alterna-rock  
**MIRACLE LEGION**  
plus 33 1/3  
FRI 5 The golden voices of folk!  
**RICHARD SHINDELL & LUCY KAPLANSKY**

SAT 6 Rich alto sax!  
**THE STEPHEN MCCRAVEN QUARTET** with special guest **ARTHUR BLYTHE**  
SUN 7 Brilliantly crafted songs  
**DAVID MALLETT**  
plus **LUI COLLINS**  
THU 11 Ultramelodic conch shells with jazz  
**STEVE TURRE & SANCTIFIED SHELLS** Advocate

FRI 12 Sizzling Latin Jazz  
**JERRY GONZALEZ** Advocate  
& **FORT APACHE BAND**  
SAT 13 Raucous Texas Blues  
**JOHNNY COPELAND**  
SUN 14 Horse celebrates the saxophone!  
**BOBBY WATSON**

MON 15 Honky Tonk Heaven presents  
**TISH HINOJOSA**, solo  
WED 17 Saxophone celebration continues  
**GEORGE COLEMAN**  
FRI 19 The great Atlantic R&B singer  
**LAVERN BAKER**

COMING: Kenny Rankin, Odette, Phil Woods, Thanks to Gravity, Poncho Sanchez, Schooner Fare, Livingston Taylor, Edwin McCain, Loudon Wannwright, Boukan Ginen, Lucio Blue Tremblay, BeauSoleil, New Riders of the Purple Sage

★ Dance Floor!  
**20 CENTER ST., NORTHAMPTON**  
ALL AGES • FULL RESTAURANT  
TICKETSTOCK 586-8686





## ART EVENTS/EXHIBITS

### DECEMBER 21 - 23

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOP** located across from the Post Office on Bridge Street in Northampton showcases crafts, handmade Christmas decorations and ornaments, dolls, stained glass, jewelry, wood turnings, and artwork by over 60 joined artisans and crafters. Hours are Tue - Fri, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sat 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sun noon - 4 p.m. Call Historic Northampton at 584-6011.

### ONGOING

**AN ART EXHIBIT BY JACQUELINE MAIDANA** (584-7089) is on display at Bart's in downtown Northampton through December 30.

**ASIAN ARTS AND ANTIQUES** in Amherst (253-2443) welcomes visitors to its new gallery with a show of Oriental rugs and pillows by noted designer Nazir Ahmed Butt of Srinagar. The show runs through January 7.

**BUILDING THEMES: ARCHITECTURAL MOTIFS FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION** shows at the Williams College Museum of Art in Williamstown (597-2429) through August 10.

**CLASSIC COMICS** The Words and Pictures Museum in Northampton (586-8545) features a selection of short stories by artists Frank Frazetta, Jack Davis, Wally Wood, Roy Krenkel, Al Williamson, George Evans, and John Severin in the third floor galleries through February 11.

**CRAZY QUILTING** Quilts by Denise Niemczyk based on the crazy-quilt technique will be on display at Forbes Library in Northampton (586-0489) through December 30.

**CREATIVE ART WORKS** by Mount Holyoke students are hanging in the Raw Carrot Vegetarian Café and Juco Bar in Amherst (549-4240) through January 4. Mixed media works including oils, charcoal, and photographs of figures, still lifes and landscapes are featured.

**A CHRISTMAS SHOW** Pahaha Gallery in Northampton (584-2753) exhibits a show of small works by gallery artists on display through December 29.

**DEEP WOODS** An exhibit of recent watercolors by Tim Murphy is on display at the Village Co-op in Leverett (367-9794) through January 31.

**EARLY JOURNEY** an exhibition of paintings and works on paper by Leverett artist Judith Ellen Sanders is on display in the Northampton City Hall Gallery through the end of January. Sanders focuses on nature and feeling by merging color with form to create a sense of expansion. The exhibit is sponsored by the Northampton Arts Council (586-6950, ext. 269).

**EUROPEAN AND LIONEL TOY TRAINS** of Peter DeRose, Steven Bass, and other private collectors are on display at the Science Museum in Springfield (263-6800, ext. 312) through December 31.

**400 POTATOES** a crazy cartoon-style spud art exhibit by John Squier is on display at A.P.E. Ltd. (586-5553) on the third floor of Thomas Marketplace in Northampton through December 30.

**HANGING IN GREEN FIELDS MARKET** (773-5157) is an exhibit by Walter Cudnochowski and Bob Ellis which will show through January 16. These local artists concentrate on local nature and the keen sense of its vulnerability.

**I AM A MAN: THE CIVIL RIGHT PHOTOGRAPHS OF ERNEST WITHERS** an exhibit of compelling images from the '50s and '60s which chronicle the historic political movement is on display at the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum in South Hadley (538-2245) through March 3.

**JURIED PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT** The Northampton Center for the Arts (584-7327) will host the first annual Western Mass Juried Photography Exhibit showing through January 28.

**KEEPING OUR DREAMS ALIVE** an art exhibition by Donna Estabrooks, Helena Dooley Mehta, Gina Beavers, and John Franklin, is on display at the Orange Arts Center in Orange (508-544-7121) through January 6.

**MY PITTSFIELD CONSCIOUSNESS** an exhibit by John Struth, is on display at Radius Gallery in Pittsfield (445-7223). The series of acrylic paintings depicts real and imaginary scenes of downtown Pittsfield and landscapes of the surrounding area, and shows through January.

**NACUL GALLERY SOLSTICE SHOW** a group exhibition by seven highly visible and respected New England artists, shows at the Nacul Gallery in Amherst (256-8025) through January 26.

**NASHAWANNUCK GALLERY** in Easthampton (529-9393) continues to show *Painting Around*, an exhibit of Western Mass. and Cape Ann landscapes by Jack Braudis, through December 31.

**19TH-CENTURY YULETIDE IMAGES** — Frances Gagnon's collages of Christmases past, including an 1844 elfin creature, are on display in the rotunda at Springfield City Hall in Springfield (739-3871) through January 2.

**NOAH'S ARK** takes over Fern Gallery in Northampton (586-

**Deadline** for calendar submissions is the Monday one week before publication. Please direct all material to Calendar Editor, Optimist Publications, 13 Old South St., Northampton, MA 01060.

4509) with a group show featuring miniature arks, folk art, painted pottery, wooden toys, music boxes, and ornaments. The show runs through December 31.

**PIERCED HEARTS AND TRUE LOVE: A CENTURY OF DRAWINGS FOR TATTOOS** an exhibit of 120 drawings and rough studies for tattoos on vellum, in ink and watercolor as well as acetate stencils, shows at Williams College Museum of Art in Williamstown (597-2429) through March 17.

**THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY: MATRIMONY IN EARLY AMERICA** Historic Deerfield's holiday exhibit of New England marriage customs and costumes from 1750-1920 is on display in the Western Mass. Hall Tavern and Asa Stebbins House Museum through January 21. Call Jane and Karl Sabo at 774-5587.

**POINTS OF REFERENCE/REVERENCE** an exhibit of architectural artwork by Kat O'Connor is showing at Wistariahurst Museum in Holyoke (534-2216) through January 21.

**A SENSE OF SPACE** an exhibit of oil pastels and paintings by Simone Alter-Mur shows in the Burnett Gallery at Jones Library in Amherst (549-6914) through December 29.

**SIXTH ANNUAL ILLUSTRATORS SHOW** R. Michelson Galleries in Northampton (586-3964) displays work by featured artists Barry Moser, Jane Dyer, Lauren Mills and Dennis Nolan, Kathryn Brown, Abigail Rorer, and Ruth Sanderson in the gallery through January 5.

**TRADITIONAL AND ANTIQUE SILVER** of American and European design from the museum's collection is on display at the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum in Springfield (263-6800, ext. 312) through December 31.

**WINTER'S PEARLS** a group show of nature's jewelry is displayed at Fern Gallery in Northampton (586-4509) through December 31. Cassandra, Dogtown, Pat Garrett, Lyn Lucy,

Northampton

**AIDS SERVICES OF FRANKLIN COUNTY** provides case management services for people living with HIV/AIDS: a volunteer buddies program, support groups, and outreach education. Call 773-8868.

**"DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT,"** an ongoing diabetes education program for diabetics and their families, is offered by Holyoke Hospital on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. Free. Call 534-2500, ext. 5696.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES** The Family Planning Council presents educational programs on human sexuality to various community groups each year. The FPC also hosts "Positive Perspectives," a forum of HIV-positive people who discuss prevention. Call John Terrell at (800) 696-7752.

**FREE EYE EXAMS** are offered for low-income workers and their families without health insurance by VISION USA. Apply in writing to VISION USA, 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis MO 63141 by January 25 or call (800) 766-4466 between January 2 - 31 from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**FREE SPINAL EXAMS** are offered to those with backaches, neck pain, headaches, or other problems related to spinal or postural problems. Visit Northeast Chiropractic in the Dunkin' Donuts Plaza in Easthampton. Call 529-2131.

**THE GIFT OF LIFE** is one of the best holiday gifts you can give this holiday season at Mercy Hospital's Blood Bank. December donors will be entered into drawings for MI, Tom ski passes and gift certificates to the Holyoke Mall at Ingleside. Donors must be 18 or older (17 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 8:15 a.m. - 4 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday 8:15 a.m. - 7 p.m. Call 748-9511.

**HIV/AIDS COUNSELING, TESTING, AND SUPPORT SERVICES** The Family

Planning Council provides free and anonymous pre-test risk assessment, counseling, lab work, and post-testing counseling with discussion of the results. Call Luz Pena Till at (800) 696-7752.

**HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING HOTLINE** pro-

their child.

### DECEMBER 26 - 27

**"BREAD AND BUTTER"** Winterberry Farm at Woolman Hill in Deerfield will host a week of farm programs for kids starting Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 a.m. Children in 2nd grade and up can learn how to milk a milkmaid and churn butter and have time to visit the other farm animals. Bring a lunch. Then "Muffins and Butter" will be held on December 26 and "Weaving For Kids" on December 29. Call Jill Horton-Lyons or Jim Lyons at 772-1987.

### DECEMBER 26 - 29

**DECEMBER VACATION CAMP** registration for youth ages 6-12 is underway by the Hampshire Regional YMCA for fun and exciting programs Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Extended care programs begin at 7:30 a.m. and operate until 5:30 p.m. Call Andy at 584-7086.

### JANUARY 2

**BRIGHT BEGINNINGS NURSERY SCHOOL PROGRAM** at the Hampshire Regional YMCA has half-day space in the afternoons for children ages 2-9 - kindergarten beginning January 2. Call Holly Martineau, preschool director at 584-7086.

**Y'S KIDS AT BEAR HILL CHILDCARE CENTER** located at the VA Medical Center in Florence has space available for children ages 8 weeks - kindergarten beginning January 2. Call Holly Martineau, preschool director at 584-7086.

### ONGOING

**FREE SCOLIOSIS SCREENINGS** are offered for children by Northeast Chiropractic in the Dunkin' Donuts Plaza in Easthampton. Call 529-2131.

**SANTA ON VOICE MAIL** Hear Santa's special Christmas greeting of love, holiday safety, the importance of giving and receiving, and feeling happy about your presents. This message is sponsored by Tel-Med service of Cooley Dickinson Hospital. Call 586-5800, tape number 395.

## CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

### DECEMBER 26

**MAKE YOUR OWN EGYPTIAN JEWELRY** and discover the secret of Egyptian hieroglyphics in a holiday vacation workshop at the G.W.V. Smith Art Museum in Springfield from noon - 4 p.m. Hear a story about ancient Egypt and visit the museum exhibit *Timbuktu*. Call 263-6800, ext. 379.

### DECEMBER 26 - 29

**"INTRODUCTION TO DANCE THERAPY: UNIFYING THE VERBAL AND NONVERBAL,"** a workshop with



Mark Panfili

Spiridi Design, Meryl Watz, and Wasabi are the featured artists.

## BODY/MIND

### DECEMBER 30 - JANUARY 1

**SILENT NEW YEAR'S DAY RETREAT** Woolman Hill in Deerfield will host a quiet overnight of reflection and meditation within a supportive gathering of companions. The workshop will run from Saturday at 6 p.m. through Sunday at 3 p.m. Call Mary Ellen Preston or John Preston at 774-3431.

### JANUARY 2

**PRENATAL EXERCISE COURSE** The Center for Women's Health at Providence Hospital will conduct a month-long series of classes on Tuesdays from 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. beginning January 2. Call 539-2950 to register.

### JANUARY 4

**FOUR CHILD BIRTH EDUCATION COURSES** will be offered through the Center for Women's Health at Providence Hospital for expectant parents in the emotional and physical aspects of pregnancy, labor, delivery, and baby care. The courses will be held Thursdays starting Jan. 4, Saturdays starting Jan. 6, Mondays starting Jan. 8, and Wednesdays starting Jan. 24. Call 539-2950 to register.

### ONGOING

**BREATHWORK** — Expand your breathing, resolve stress, clear your mind, and heal your emotional and physical body with breath. Susan Iellamo (586-5685) offers breathing analysis and private sessions in Transformational Breath™ at Seeds of Transformation, 3rd floor of Fitzwillly's building in

# Salute the Prince

Take a journey with Clara and her Nutcracker Prince through mystical places and among exotic characters. The magic and mirth of the holiday season come alive as the Hartford Ballet presents the last original performance of *The Nutcracker*. "This is the moment before the new beginning," says choreographer Kirk Patterson, who will recreate the show next year for the ballet's silver anniversary celebration. Savor some magical spirit at The Bushnell in Hartford (860-246-6807), Friday December 22 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday December 23 at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.

video callers with information on the benefits and limitations of the HIV test, risk assessment information, and the location of all Mass. anonymous/free HIV testing programs. In Spanish and English. Call (800) 750-

### 2016

**LEGAL SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS** The Law Consortium of Western Mass. offers HIV persons a sensitive and caring environment in which to iron out legal issues. The service is free to income-eligible people. Call (800) 696-7752 or 747-5144.

**MEDICAL CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS** is offered through the Family Planning Council. Services include complete gyn care, massage, acupuncture, and general medical exams. Call (800) 696-7752, ext. 406.

**TAKE POUNDS OFF SENSIBLY** TOPS can help you enjoy the holidays without losing perspective on your health. Call Barbara Todd at 773-0391 or (800) 932-8677 for the nearest chapter.

**YOGA** — deep yoga classes of a gentle to moderate nature designed to create a profound level of relaxation, rejuvenation, and inner stillness are taught by Gary Halpern in Northampton. Call 584-7197.

**YOGA, KRIPALU STYLE** The Heart Song Yoga Center (525-0720) is offering beginner level yoga classes in East Longmeadow on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in December for a small fee when you donate a non-perishable food item to the Open Pantry.

## CHILDREN/YOUTH

### DECEMBER 22

**CORRAL THE KIDS AT A SHOPPERS' CAMP** The Children's Museum at Holyoke (536-7048) will offer help for holiday caregivers by giving kids the gift of fun from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. or noon - 4 p.m. Parents should send a lunch with

Sarah J. Kaye, a registered dance therapist, will focus on increasing participant's awareness of their individual movement style and the creative and therapeutic power of movement. The workshop will be held in Amherst from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call 567-5209 to register.

### DECEMBER 27

**CREATE YOUR OWN 'MORTON' OR 'SAM I AM' PUPPET** The Museum of Fine Arts in Springfield will offer a holiday vacation activity from noon - 4 p.m. Enjoy a Dr. Seuss story and see *And to Think That He Saw It in Springfield!* exhibition on display at Connecticut Valley Historical Museum. Call 263-6800, ext. 379.

### DECEMBER 28

**SLED OVER TO THE SCIENCE MUSEUM** in Springfield and get involved in several holiday activities offered. From noon - 4 p.m. view the new exhibition *Before the Pilgrims: Native Americans in Pre-Colonial Massachusetts*. At 1 and 3 p.m. follow the "Stars of Africa" in the Planetarium. At 2 p.m. see live North American birds of prey and meet a "mystery guest" presented by Wingmaster Julie Collier (sign language interpreted). From 3 - 3:30 p.m., create your own Native American beadwork (sign language interpreted). Call 263-6800, ext. 379.

### DECEMBER 29

**CREATE YOUR PERSONAL WODABE MIRROR POUCH** or other African craft in a vacation day workshop held at the Museum of Fine Arts in Springfield from noon - 4 p.m. Play gallery games and visit the *Inspired by Dreams: African Art from the Derby Collection* exhibition. Call 263-6800, ext. 379.

### JANUARY 2

**WORKSHOPS OFFERED BY DIVISION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION** at UMass include art and photography, business and financial planning, career and personal development, family and life skills, health, food, and fitness, sports, recreation, and the outdoors beginning the week of January 2. Call 545-2414 to register.

### JANUARY 11

**PIONEER VALLEY T'AI CHI** begins its new winter beginners series at the People's Institute in Northampton on



Thursdays January 11 - March 28, at 7:15 p.m. An open house and open push hands practice will also be held at Munson Memorial Library in Amherst the first Sunday of each month starting in January from 2 - 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 - 6 p.m., respectively. Call 259-1049.

## UPCOMING

### BECOME A LICENSED FAMILY DAY CARE PROVIDER

Child Care Focus and Valley CDC has designed a special 3 week training program for 10 hours/week. Dates are February 5 - 23 and the training is free to 12 residents of Northampton only. Upon completion, trainees will be licensed and ready to care for children. Call (800) 962-5511 or 582-4218.

**SPRING STUDY TOURS TO SCANDINAVIA** North Adams State College invites the public to a study tour of Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm, and Helsinki from March 14-31. The tour is designed to teach participants about Scandinavian history, including recent events. A deposit is required by December 22. Call Connerton at 663-5478 or 663-5046.

**SUMMER ART WORKSHOPS IN ITALY** Registration is now open for next summer's workshops, hosted by nationally known artists Fred Wessel (586-0708) and Bill Patterson (253-2640). The Umbria-Tuscany-Rome workshop and the Assisi-Venice workshop will give artists plenty of time to create and explore Italy.

## ONGOING

**COMPUTER WORKSHOPS** are offered during December and January through DBS Consulting Service in Greenfield. Microsoft Windows and PowerPoint, Internet, WordPerfect, Windows 95, NetWare, and Quattro Pro 6.0 are some of the courses available. Call 772-2526.

## EVENTS

practice clinicians, as well as workshops, therapy groups, and support groups. Call 586-2627.

**THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL YOUTH PROJECT** of the Pioneer Valley in Northampton (584-4213) offers support groups and activity programs. AIDS and safer sex information and mentor programs to any teen under 19 who is gay, lesbian, bisexual, or questioning their sexual orientation.

## MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

### DECEMBER 21

**OPEN HOUSE FOR "JUMP START."** A free pre-college program for low-income women will be the focus of an open house information meeting in Room N330 at Greenfield Community College (774-3131, ext. 327) from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Classes for Jump Start begin January 29.

### DECEMBER 27

**WEAPONS ELIMINATION COMMITTEE** will meet at Bangs Center in Amherst at 7 p.m. Call Ginny Schneider at (413) 259-1049 or 665-0536.

## ONGOING

**THE PARADISE CITY FILM COOPERATIVE** has occasional informal meetings for area film and video makers. Meetings are announced to members and open to all. Call 582-0252 or 256-1908.

## OUTDOORS

### DECEMBER 21

**SOLSTICE CELEBRATION** Arcadia Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary will host a relaxing time of cultural and natural history readings by the bonfire from 5 - 6 p.m. Call 584-3009 to pre-register.

## PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE!

- 50% OFF ALL FONTANINI OPEN STOCK (ONLY)
- NATIVITY FIGURES - SALE STARTS DEC. 11

The *OPEN WINDOW*  
BOOK & GIFT SHOP  
OF THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD, INC.

12-14 CENTER STREET at MARKET SQUARE  
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## Do It In Springfield

This holiday vacation, take the kids to the Quadrangle for oodles of clever activities. At the Museum of Fine Arts on Wednesday, December 27, create your own Dr. Seuss paper puppet and listen to volunteers read stories about green eggs and ham and how the Grinch stole Christmas. Then stroll over to the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum and visit the Dr. Seuss exhibit, *And To Think That He Saw It in Springfield!* This ongoing workshop runs from noon - 4 p.m. So walk in and stay as long as you want. It's free (except for a small fee if you choose to make a puppet).

### DECEMBER 21

**2ND ANNUAL SOLSTICE CELEBRATION** will be presented by Arcadia Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary in Easthampton to celebrate the shortest day and longest night of the year. This family program from 5 - 6 p.m. will be outdoors around a bonfire. Dress warmly. Call 584-3009 to register.

### STILL LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL HOLIDAY GIFT?

The El Arco Iris Youth and Community Arts Center in Holyoke will sponsor its first annual youth crafts fair. Art students will be selling pieces they made this fall, and money raised will go toward programming for 1996. The fair will be held in the Skinner Community Center, 2nd floor, in Holyoke from 4 - 7 p.m. Call Lorna Kepes at 532-2360.

### DECEMBER 22

**VALLEY VEGETARIAN SOCIETY POTLUCK** The Valley Vegetarian Society will hold its 2nd meeting at the Cliff View Manor Community Center at the base of Mt. Tom in Easthampton at 6 p.m. Bring a vegetarian dish, a friend, and a recipe to exchange. Claudia Gilman will present a talk, "Food and Mood," at 7 p.m. Call 529-2131.

**WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION** with a fire ceremony and meditation will be presented by Sunray Meditation Society in Leverett beginning at 6 p.m. with a potluck. The ceremony will begin at 7:30 p.m. Call 369-4252 or 548-9394.

## GLB EVENTS/INFO

### ONGOING

**GLBT COUNSELING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY REFERRAL SERVICE** lists "gay-friendly" agencies and private

### DECEMBER 23

**OBSERVATORY OBSERVING** The Amherst Astronomy Association will conduct a free program at Amherst College Wilder Observatory at 9 p.m. Call Tom Whitney at 256-6234.

**PLANETARIUM SHOWS** The Amherst Astronomy Association will conduct a free show at Amherst College Bassett Planetarium at 4 p.m. Call Tom Whitney at 256-6234.

### DECEMBER 27 - JANUARY 1

**NEW YEAR'S VACATION FAMILY CAMP** Spend a week in Vermont's winter wonderland at Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee, VT. Explore the woodlands on snowshoes, listen to stories by a fire, or spend the day skiing. It's an old-fashioned country paradise. Call (802) 333-3405.

### DECEMBER 30

**"CELEBRATION OF THE WINTER NIGHT."** Northfield Mountain will host a rousing family program with stories, games, and discussions about winter and nocturnal animals. The event will be held from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Call 659-4465, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wed - Sun, to register.

### JANUARY 26 - 28

**WINTER ECOLOGY WEEKEND** at Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee, VT, will prove to enlighten and calm the most stressful city dwellers. The weekend, open to adults and children over 14, will focus on the unique adaptations that enable animals and plants to survive the long winter. Bring your snowshoes or cross-country skis. Call (802) 333-3405 or write Hulbert Outdoor Center, RR 1, Box 91A, Fairlee, VT 05045.

## ONGOING

**BRIGHT NIGHTS AT FOREST PARK** Feast your eyes on holiday lights as you drive through Forest Park. Scenic Land Victorian Village, Winter Woods, and North Pole Village await.



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in Forest Park in Springfield from 6 - 11 p.m. Bright Nights  
is on display through January 7. Call 748-9148.

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Hill. Call 634-5751.

**1996 GARDEN CALENDAR** highlighting perennials for  
low-maintenance landscapes and year-round gardening  
tips, is available from the UMass Extension staff (545-0895).

## PERFORMANCES

### DECEMBER 21

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING ON THE COMMON** Organist  
Elizabeth Bolton will play international holiday carols and  
then lead the audience in a sing-along at the Second  
Congregational Church in Greenfield from 12:10 - 12:45  
p.m. Call 774-3476.

**HARTSBROOK STUDENT CHOIR** Youngsters from  
Hartbrook School will sing songs of winter at Bread and  
Circus in Hadley (586-9932) beginning at 11 a.m.

### DECEMBER 21 - 24

**IT'S AUTHENTIC** The Whelstone Theatre Company (802-  
257-2600) will present the world premiere of *True Magic* by  
Evan Blake in performances at the theater in West  
Brattleboro on Thursday at 7 p.m., Friday - Saturday at 8  
p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.

**THE MAGIC LANTERN: CLASSIC HOLIDAY TALES  
FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY** a world premiere produc-  
tion of favorite holiday children's stories, shows at  
StageWest in Springfield (781-2340) at 8 p.m. through  
December 24.

### DECEMBER 22

**TERI RAMBO** will perform cheery acoustic folk to brighten  
the winter day at Bread and Circus in Hadley (586-9932)  
from 1 - 2:30 p.m.

## POETRY/PROSE

### ONGOING

**AMHERST WRITERS AND ARTISTS** offers daytime and  
evening creative writing workshops in fiction, nonfiction  
and poetry. All ages of people with beginning and  
advanced levels are invited to participate. For general infor-  
mation, call Director Pat Schneider at 253-3307.

**CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP** "Celebrating  
Ourselves and One Another Through Writing," a workshop  
for women, is held Thursday evenings in Amherst by Susan  
Solomon-Darling. Also, another evening workshop for men  
and women is forming in Amherst. Call 549-4058.

**45TH ANNIVERSARY POETRY CONTEST** is offered  
by Artists Embassy for all poets worldwide, with over \$3000  
in prizes and a \$1000 grand prize. Send 1 poem of 21 lines  
or less in any format on any subject to Artists Embassy  
1598 Shradder Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. Poets name  
and address must appear on the page with the poem. Call  
Richard Angilly, director, at (510) 235-0361.

**FREE NORTHAMPTON POETRY CONTEST** A \$1000  
grand prize is being offered in a contest open to anyone liv-  
ing in the Northampton area. Send 1 poem on any subject  
any style of 21 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, 1626 N.  
Wilcox Ave., Suite 126, Hollywood, CA 90028. Hurry, dead-  
line is February 18.

**FREE POETRY CONTEST** The Bards of Burbank are  
offering a \$1000 grand prize for the winning poem. Send 1  
poem of 21 lines or less on any subject in any style to Free  
Poetry Contest, 2219 W. Olive Ave., Suite 250, Burbank, CA  
91506. Entry deadline is December 25. Call Dr. Scribner,  
director, at (213) 462-8908.

**FREE POETRY CONTEST** New Jersey Rainbow Poets is  
sponsoring an open religious poetry contest with prizes  
totaling \$2000. Send 1 poem of 21 lines or less on any sub-  
ject/style with a spiritual inference to Poetry Contest, 103 N.  
Wood Ave., Suite 70, Linden, NJ 07036. Deadline is  
February 15.

**GAY MEN'S WRITING GROUP** meets Thursdays for cre-  
ative writing activities and exercises and support/feedback  
for personal writing projects. Free. Call Stefan at 247-9141.

**SEND YOUR WRITING SAMPLES** The Speak Out!  
series (508-544-6407) is currently accepting writing for next  
year's reading series. Send no more than six selections to  
1794 Meetinghouse, Speak Out, PO Box 8, New Salem, MA  
01355 (include SASE).

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### DECEMBER 27

**BALANCE DISORDERS AND DIZZINESS SUPPORT  
GROUP** will meet in the Deliso Conference Center at  
Mercy Hospital at 7 p.m. Call Lois Oselek at 748-6840.

**SPINAL CORD INJURY SUPPORT GROUP** will meet  
in the Deliso Conference Center at Mercy Hospital at 7 p.m.  
The free meetings are held the last Wed of every month.  
Call the Weldon Center for Rehabilitation at 748-6800.

**SUPPORT GROUPS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AND  
FRIENDS** of people suffering from Alzheimer's Disease will  
meet at the Geriatric Authority in Holyoke (536-8110) on  
Thursday from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. and Tuesday from 2 - 4  
p.m.

### ONGOING

**ADULT CHILDREN GROUP** for those in search of healing  
is forming. A heart-centered approach is offered by Holly  
Levinson, LICSW, at 584-7363.

**APHASIA SUPPORT GROUP** Persons with aphasia can  
get information and fellowship at a weekly meeting in Mercy  
Hospital's Deliso Conference Center Fridays from 9:30 - 11  
a.m. The meetings are sponsored by the Weldon Center for  
Rehabilitation. Call David Landry at 748-6981.

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** meets Mondays in  
Providence Hospital's auditorium at 7 p.m. Persons with  
cancer can find information and fellowship with chaplain Sr.  
Madeleine Joy, S.P. Call 539-2950.

**CODA BASED 12-STEP GROUP FOR THERAPISTS**

meets every Wednesday at noon in downtown  
Northampton. Men and women are encouraged to inquire.  
Call 586-7377 or 256-0959.

**GAY MEN'S THERAPY GROUP** a facilitated monthly  
support group offers support to men who feel their lives are  
too busy and to those going through the coming out  
process. Call GLBT Counseling and Psychotherapy  
Referral Service (586-2627).

**HOME CARE P.R.N. ALZHEIMER SUPPORT GROUP**  
meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Wilbraham Senior  
Center in Wilbraham from 6:45 - 8 p.m. Call 737-3597.

**LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL BEREAVEMENT  
GROUP** A free support group is now forming. Call GLBT  
Counseling and Psychotherapy Referral Service at 586-  
2627.

**SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER (SAD)/WINTER  
DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUP** is forming in  
Northampton. Call Gary at 584-7197.

**SPIRITUAL JOURNEY** A group is forming to offer support  
and guidance for your spiritual path, including soul  
advancement, inner healing, and deepening the heart. Call  
Holly Levinson, LICSW, at 584-7363.

**STRAIGHT SPOUSE SUPPORT GROUP** Confidential  
Western Mass meetings. Call GLBT Counseling and  
Psychotherapy Referral Service at 586-2627.

**SUPPORT GROUP FOR POST-OP TRANSEXUALS**  
is now forming to meet in the Valley once a month. Call  
GLBT Counseling and Psychotherapy Referral Service  
(586-2627).

**WOMENSONGS** a heart-centered support and therapy  
group for women in any kind of transition is forming. Call  
Holly Levinson, LICSW, at 584-7363.

## VOLUNTEERS

### ONGOING

**ADOPT AN ANIMAL** from the Forest Park Zoological  
Society. Animal adoptions make wonderful gifts and come  
with benefits like free Zoo passes, free Zoo train rides, fact  
sheets and animal photograph, and a personalized  
Adoption Certificate. Call the Zoo in Springfield at 733-  
2251.

**THE BETWEEN FAMILY AND FRIENDS CENTER  
WANTS YOU** if you are looking for a rewarding and edu-  
cational experience working for a home base for those  
dealing with HIV/AIDS. Volunteers are needed for trans-  
portation, outreach, buddies, childcare, cooks, and office  
help. Call Frank Baldassarre at 747-8236.

**FIELD WALK LEADERS NEEDED** for Arcadia Nature  
Center and Wildlife Sanctuary's school program. Volunteers  
will lead small groups of school children in environmental  
education activities one morning a week. No experience is  
necessary. Training will occur on January 11 and 18 from 9  
a.m. - noon. Call 584-3009.

**FIRST NIGHT, NORTHAMPTON 1996** The  
Northampton Center for the Arts and the First Night  
Planning Committee requests volunteers to aid in all  
aspects of planning this community celebration. All volun-  
teers get free First Night buttons and a one-year member-  
ship to the Center for the Arts. Call Kathy Service at 584-  
0784 or 584-7327.

**FREE TRAINING FOR ELDERLY** Highland Valley Elder  
Services is offering individualized training programs to job  
seekers over 55 who are pursuing part-time and full-time  
employment. Call Jody Kean at 586-2000/800-322-0551.

**GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST** Sylvester's  
Restaurant in Northampton (586-5343) is sponsoring a  
build-it-yourself gingerbread structure contest for the most  
creative and the most popular holiday house. Entries are  
due at the restaurant by December 18 at 4 p.m.

**THE HOMESHARING PROGRAM** at UMass is actively  
seeking families with extra room in their home in exchange  
for childcare assistance. HomeSharing is also seeking  
elders who want some in-home companionship during the  
day or night. Call 545-0865.

**LETTERS FROM SANTA** Special Olympics will send a  
personalized letter to your child or loved one when you  
donate \$5 or more. Send a donation with the name  
address, sex, and special Christmas wish to Special  
Olympics, 15 Highland Park Drive, West Springfield, MA  
01089-4529.

**MARKET YOUR TALENTS WITH SPECIAL  
OLYMPICS** The Special Olympics "Recycle for Gold" pro-  
gram for unwanted vehicles is looking for persons interest-  
ed in spending 5 - 10 hours per month creating and imple-  
menting marketing strategies and overseeing the work. Call  
Alice Zuvers at 747-8946.

**NATURE CENTER HOSTS** at Arcadia Nature Center and  
Wildlife Sanctuary are needed to greet the public and  
answer phones on Saturdays from 9 a.m. - noon or noon -  
3 p.m. twice a month or on other shifts during the week. The  
only requirements are a desire to help an environmental  
organization, a willingness to learn more about natural his-  
tory, and an interest in working with people. Call 584-3009.

**NECESSITIES/NECESIDADES** an organization for bat-  
tered women, is seeking women for the hotline, legal advoca-  
cy, administration, and childcare. Volunteers are asked to  
make an 8 month commitment and to work 16 hours/month.  
The next 40-hour training begins February 12 (child care  
provided). Call Shelle at 586-1125. Application deadline is  
January 20.

**SHARE THE HOLIDAY WARMTH** and donate your new  
or used winter hats, mittens, and scarves to decorate the  
annual Mitten Tree at the Central Library in Springfield (263-  
6800 ext. 290). The tree is sponsored by the Friends of the  
Springfield Library and will be in place through January 5.

**TEACHERS AND TUTORS NEEDED** at the Western  
Mass Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Northampton. Six-  
week one-hour classes begin January 1. Teachers are  
needed in comedy, communication and computer skills,  
creative and resume writing, current events, music lessons,  
post-traumatic stress, relationships, stress management,  
Tai chi and yoga, and watercolor. Tutors are needed imme-  
diately in basic writing, reading, math, and spelling. Call  
Any Shornstein or Gretchen Sullivan at 582-3059.



**TO SEE SOMETHING PERSONAL,  
TURN TO PAGE 46 . . .**

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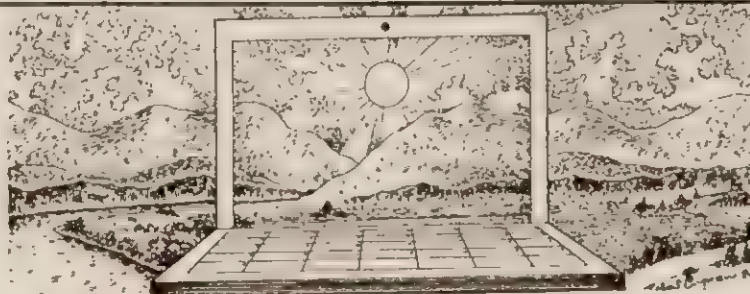


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**B**ryan Forbes is a sophomore at Chicopee High School. He wrote "Santa Claus: Man, Myth, & Legend" last year and presented it to his parents on Christmas Eve. Mr. Forbes is a National Library of Poetry semi-finalist, and his work will be included in a National Library anthology in the spring. He enjoys reading, basketball, and baseball in addition to writing poetry.

**Santa Claus: Man, Myth, & Legend**

This is a story  
 About our friend, Santa Claus,  
 His life growing up  
 And his miniature flaws

Born on the 25th  
 A long time ago  
 In the month of December  
 In the year double zero

When he was a kid  
 He always played with toys  
 He said, "When I'm older,  
 I'll make 'em for girls and boys

A big, huge collection  
 Of my favorite games  
 To give out to kids  
 With all different names"

But his parents disagreed;  
 They thought he was a fool  
 They said, "Get a real job  
 After you finish school"

Santa couldn't believe  
 His parents made this choice  
 He didn't have his say  
 He didn't have a voice

He thought, "I'll show them  
 I'll run to the North Pole  
 I'll earn myself some money  
 To help achieve my goal"

The next day he was  
 Off and on his way  
 He reached Nova Scotia  
 On the very next day

He got a plumbing job  
 Fixing someone's toilet  
 It didn't quite work out  
 'Cause he overflowed it

He moved up farther north  
 To the Yukon, I think  
 He found another job  
 But this one really stinks

Santa was a garbage man  
 And was doing pretty well  
 Until he crashed his truck  
 Then his boss gave him hell

He crashed his garbage truck  
 Into Rudolph the Reindeer  
 This creature wasn't killed  
 Only smacked in the rear

Santa vowed from then on out  
 To take care of his friend  
 Santa told him of his goal  
 And the places he had been

They traveled farther north  
 'Til they reached their destination  
 They chopped down some  
 trees  
 For their hut of hibernation

But, Rudolph was depressed  
 He missed his family  
 Santa said he'd call them  
 To help make him happy

To go one step further  
 He invited them to stay  
 One great, big, happy family  
 That only eats the hay

He found another job  
 Working in a factory  
 They made candy canes  
 The most popular candy

It was the only factory  
 To have a striping deal  
 They had that special touch  
 They had that special feel

One day he was tired  
 And fell asleep at the wheel  
 No canes were then striped  
 So they lost the striping deal

The elves were out of work  
 With nowhere else to go  
 So Santa said, "Come work  
 for me  
 And get out of the snow"

They graciously accepted  
 To work for Mr. Claus —  
 Didn't have to pay taxes —  
 Found a loophole in the laws

They worked for years and  
 years  
 'Til finally they were done  
 They had built lots of toys  
 So kids could have fun

All that they had left  
 To accomplish Santa's goal  
 Was to deliver everything  
 Including lumps of coal

Santa will live forever  
 Because of his good deeds  
 The man, the myth, the leg  
 end  
 He leaves a legacy ★

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**BEST-SELLING BOOKS IN THE VALLEY**

**Fiction**

1. *The Passion of Alice*, by Stephanie Grant. (Houghton Mifflin, \$19.95)
2. *Stories of Vladimir Nabokov*, by Vladimir Nabokov. (Random House, \$35)
3. *The Hundred Secret Senses*, by Amy Tan. (Putnam, \$24.95)
4. *Sabbath's Theater*, by Phillip Roth. (Houghton Mifflin, \$24.95)
5. *Island of the Day Before*, by Umberto Eco. (Harcourt Brace, \$25)
6. *Numbers in the Dark and Other Stories*, by Italo Calvino. (Random House, \$24)
7. *Tattooed Map*, by Barbara Hodgson. (Chronicle Books, \$17.95)
8. *Ghost Road*, by Pat Barker. (E.P. Dutton, \$21.95)
9. *Isabel's Bed*, by Elinor Lipman. (Simon & Schuster, \$20)
10. *Mr. Ives's Christmas*, by Oscar Hijuelos. (HarperCollins, \$23)

**Nonfiction**

1. *Amazing Grace*, by Jonathan Kozol. (Vintage, \$23)
2. *What Dogs Do*, by Sharon Beals. (Chronicle Books, \$7.95)
3. *A Civil Action*, by Jonathan Harr. (Random House, \$25)
4. *Bury Me Standing*, by Isabel Fonesca. (Random House, \$25)
5. *Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder*, by Lawrence Weschler. (Random House, \$21)
6. *Unleashed*, by Amy Hempel. (Vintage, \$19)
7. *Encyclopedia of New York City*, by Kenneth T. Jackson. (McMillan, \$60)
8. *Aimée & Jaguar*, by Erica Fischer. (HarperCollins, \$24)
9. *Savages*, by Joe Kane. (Random House, \$25)
10. *An Unquiet Mind*, by Kay Redfield

This week's Best Sellers list courtesy of The Globe Bookshop, Northampton.



# RECORD REVIEWS

## STRIPPED - THE ROLLING STONES, VIRGIN

By now the unplugged concept has gotten rather tired and trendy. It's become a rite of passage for new bands and a way for established acts to rehash their hits. It was only a matter of time before the Stones followed the other dinosaurs down the acoustic road, but what's surprising is that the band that has tried so hard to be relevant in the '90s has added its own twist to the whole notion of "unplugged."

First off, *Stripped* has nothing to do with the MTV *Unplugged* show — it was recorded at various live shows during last year's *Voodoo Lounge* tour. And while the band does get down to the bare bones, they do occasionally plug in. But what makes this the Stones' most refreshing album since *Some Girls* is the choice of material. The guys have shelved the hits and pulled out some obscure, albeit decent, material from their vast catalog: the gospel-tinged "Shine A Light" from *Exile*, "Dead Flowers" off *Sticky Fingers*, and "The Spider and the Fly," the B-side of "Satisfaction." They also offer up some interesting cover tunes like Dylan's "Like A Rolling Stone" and Willie Dixon's "Little Baby."

In recent years, the Stones have adapted the credo "bigger is better" — which is why it's so great to hear them making music without all the razzle-dazzle. Their last few studio releases have been exercises in slickness, but *Stripped* is rough around the edges. The band members actually seem to be enjoying themselves rather than just going through the motions. As a bonus, *Stripped* is an interactive CD, so those with CD-ROM capabilities can get a glimpse of three videos from the band's recently released *Voodoo Lounge* CD-ROM.

## YOUR LITTLE SECRET - MELISSA ETHERIDGE, ISLAND

Melissa Etheridge isn't a little secret anymore. The huge success of her fourth album, *Yes I Am*, sent her career through the roof. Suddenly the woman who was known for her knockout shows at Smith College's John M. Greene Hall was headlining arenas, singing with Bruce Springsteen and inducting Janis Joplin into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Melissa was everywhere. Not wanting to lose any momentum, Etheridge has released *Your Little Secret* while *Yes I Am* is still on the charts. She once again works with veteran producer Hugh Padgham and is accompanied by her current touring band.

The album opens with two hard-rocking numbers, the title track and "I Really Like You." From there she settles into a selection of melodic rockers ("An Unusual Kiss") and heartfelt ballads ("All The Way To Heaven"), making *Your Little Secret* a natural follow-up to *Yes I Am*. Springsteen's strong influence can be heard here, but, unfortunately, not on the lyrics. Etheridge has a tendency to fall back on clichés in her tales of obsessive, lusty love, although "coming out" has led to more frankness in her writing. "Shriner's Park" deals with her awakening sexuality, while "I Could Have Been You," one of the strongest tracks here, deals with intolerance toward gays. In a recent interview, Etheridge said she wants to be the first woman to headline a stadium tour. *Your Little Secret* brings her a notch closer to that goal.

— Sheryl Hunter ★

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  3. Eggs - *Christmas Shake* (7") (Chunk)
  4. Zuko Fiddler/New Radiant Storm King - *Magic Eye Sampler* (7") (Magic Eye)
  5. Private Jemmy - *Conversation X* (7") (Red Hot)

- NEW COUNTRY**
1. Brooks Williams - *Wife-Like* (Green Linnet)
  2. Hills Of Home - *25 Years of Folk Music on Rounder* (Rounder)
  3. Jerry and Brooke and The Story - *Plumb* (GRP)
  4. Various Artists - *Dance Floor* (MCA)
  5. Jimmy Sturr - *I Love to Polka* (Rounder)

- ALTERNATIVE / COLLECTS**
1. Various Artists - *Saturday Morning* (MCA)
  2. Enya - *Memory of Trees* (Reprise)
  3. Real Gone - *Antipathy* (Capitol)
  4. Smashing Pumpkins - *Melion Collie and the Infinite Sadness* (Virgin)
  5. Passengers (Eno and U2) - *Original Soundtracks* (Island)

- JAZZ**
1. Miles Davis - *Kind of Blue* (CBS)
  2. John Coltrane - *Duke Ellington - Remaster* (Impulse)
  3. Stanley Clarke - *At Dinn* - *Live in Paris* - *Philly* (IRS)
  4. Modern Jazz Quartet - *Dedicated to Connie* (Atlantic)
  5. Keith Jarrett - *Live at the Blue Note* (ECM)

- CLASSICAL**
1. Anonymous 4 - *The Lily and the Lamb* (Harmonia Mundi)
  2. Richard Entom - *Voices of Light* (Anonymous 4) (Sony)
  3. Handel - *Messiah* (Naxos)
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## Community Chat

by Sharon Bass

I'm taking a departure this week from my usual Chat news to address something that has shocked and deeply saddened me — the recent murder of a little girl at the hands of her mother. It doesn't help to remind myself that this is not the first time a child has been killed by a parent. Each case is so horrifying it leaves me dumbfounded as to how such a thing could ever happen.

Earlier this month, six-year-old Elisa Izquierdo was found dead in her Brooklyn, New York apartment. Her abbreviated life, riddled with sadistic abuse and torture by her mother, Awilda Lopez, was chronicled in *Time* magazine (December 11, 1995). However, the thrust of the cover story was the ineffectiveness of New York City's Child Welfare Administration (CWA), which, according to the article, failed time and time again to intervene adequately during Elisa's years of hell with mom. In fact, a pull-quote in the story read: "She was not killed by an individual, but by the silence of many." Among the many accused is the CWA.

Why is it that we're so quick to point an angry finger at ill-funded, under-staffed human service agencies (many of which work beyond their capacities) in order to soften our wrath toward the criminal?

Was it because the CWA was lax that Lopez smashed her daughter's head into a concrete wall, thus causing her demise? Was it because the CWA was lax that Lopez made her daughter eat her own feces and then mopped the floor with her six-year-old's head? Was it because the CWA was lax that Lopez sexually assaulted her daughter with a hairbrush? Was it because the CWA was lax that Lopez burned her daughter repeatedly with cigarettes? And was it because the CWA was lax that Lopez called her daughter a "filthy, little whore?"

I don't think so.

Lopez was reportedly a drug addict. That



Sharon Bass

doesn't make her clinically insane. Nowhere have I read that the woman is psychotic, thus incapable of distinguishing fantasy from reality. Sick? Yes. Perverted? Definitely. Was she jealous of her decidedly beautiful daughter, whose private education was being paid for by Prince Michael of Greece? It's highly likely. But does that make Lopez less accountable for her actions than a governmental agency is supposed to be? I find that hard to swallow and tolerate. The *Time* article focuses on all the mistakes the CWA made while investigating the Izquierdo/Lopez case over the last few years. The reporter seems to want us to direct the blame everywhere except where it belongs — on the child abuser/murderer.

I'm sure we're all going to hear what a raw deal Lopez has been dealt in life. The media will most likely generate numerous stories on her own childhood traumas. Frankly, I don't care. At least right now I don't. I'm staring at a photo of Elisa's white coffin with teddy bears on top being lowered into her grave. And I'm tired of hearing defense attorneys deliver polished, emotionally charged summations of their clients' unfortunate lives while defenseless victims have been robbed of their lives.

No, I have no sympathy for Lopez. Like all children, Elisa came into this world with the right (not the privilege) to be loved, nurtured, and protected by her parent. Instead, she was brutally smashed to death. ★

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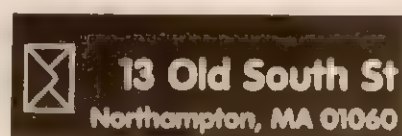
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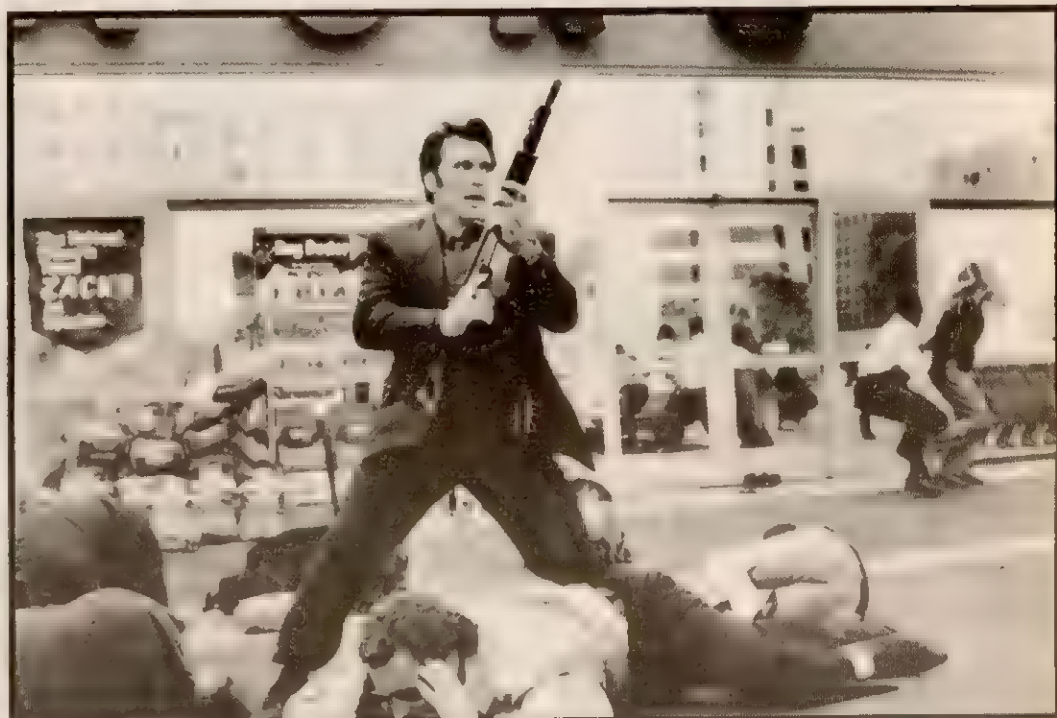
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## Canned Heat

Michael Mann's *Heat* throws off secondary sparks  
by Jeff Allard

When *Heat* is on, it's one of the most incendiary action films of recent memory. A prolonged shoot-out that sprawls across several city blocks is one for the books — the centerpiece of a movie that contains several virtuoso moments. Michael Mann's command of the poetry of violence has never been better, and it has often been very, very good (*Thief*, *Manhunter*). Watching *Heat*, you get the feeling that Mann is trying to reach for greatness here — the cops-and-robbers film to end

all and DeNiro as the cool, almost monkish criminal living in a beautiful beach house devoid of any personal effects. It's just the first step, though, in placing nearly every sympathetic impulse with DeNiro. DeNiro, as usual, is the master of every scene he's in, without ever seeming to try to be. Pacino, on the other hand, is never fully believable in the tough-cop role he's supposed to carry. When he screams out his lines to the various thugs and low-lives he's harassing for info, you wonder how he gets away with it (to have supporting

**The problem with *Heat* is that the roles seem to belong to the wrong men.**

all cops-and-robbers films. Like many films these days, it has an epic length (two hours and 52 minutes). Mann makes *Heat* a primal, existential urban hunt. It should work. Ironically, it's the casting that undoes him.

With Al Pacino as the cop and Robert DeNiro as the criminal, Mann puts two of the most celebrated actors of our time head-to-head in a great bit of stunt casting. Pacino plays LAPD detective Vincent Hanna, a man on the downward slope of his third marriage. DeNiro plays Neil McCauley, a solitary, highly disciplined professional thief. The two men are supposed to be mirror images of each other: both are driven; both are tragically unable to balance the violence of their jobs with the needs of a domestic life. Both men are, well, loners. "You try and take down guys like me," DeNiro tells Pacino in a brief but powerful meeting midway through the film. This is the one relationship both men can work out — they both know what they need from each other. For all the blood spilled, their chase isn't as messy as the heartache they leave around them.

The problem with *Heat* is that the roles seem to belong to the wrong men. It's a clever conceit to show Pacino as the disheveled cop running on pure adren-

players like Tone Loc and Henry Rollins fold in his presence is stretching my disbelief too far). I could have believed DeNiro as Hanna instantly. Likewise, Pacino's hyperactive performance (why does he yell all the time now?) would have set better in the role of the desperate criminal. The flawed dynamic between the two, and the disparity between our gut sympathies and the way movie convention demands that the film play out, throws off any satisfaction. The reversal of the two men's usual screen personas might have added an intriguing wrinkle to the film in addition to giving it a cathartic resolution.

If Mann had intended *Heat* to be revisionist, the seeming misstep on his part might have paid off. But while *Heat* is definitely state-of-the-art, it's not out to overturn the genre. If anything, Mann's intention seems to vindicate the crime thriller by raising it to the level of postmodern spectacle. *Heat* needed more than powerhouse performances and grandiose battles. For most films, that would be enough. And *Heat* is more compelling than most films of its type. But given the talent harnessed for this project, it's almost a waste to have it all go toward an elaborate retread. Mann stages a good showdown, but he should have tried to stage a great one instead. ★

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## ★★★ MOVIE TIMES ★★★

These listings cover **December 22 - December 28**. Movie listings are subject to change. Please call theaters for further information and updated listings.

**ACADEMY OF MUSIC**

Northampton (584-8435)  
•**Carrington** (R) (no film Sun) 7, 9:15 p.m. daily.

**AMHERST CINEMA**

Amherst (253-5426)  
•**Sabrina** (PG) (no film Sun) Fri and Sat 7, 9:15 p.m.; Mon - Thurs 7:30 p.m.

**GARDEN CINEMAS**

Greenfield (774-4881)  
•**An American President** (PG-13) Sat - Sun 2 p.m., Tue - Thurs 2, 7, 9 p.m. •**Balto** (G) (opens Sat) Sat - Sun 2 p.m.; Tue - Thurs 2, 6:30 p.m. •**Casino** (R) Tue - Thurs 8 p.m. •**Cutthroat Island** (PG-13) (opens Sat) Sat - Sun 1:45 p.m.; Tue - Thurs 1:45, 6:30, 8:50 p.m. •**Get Shorty** (R) Sat - Sun 2 p.m., Tue - Thurs 2, 7, 9 p.m. •**Grumpier Old Men** (PG-13) (opens Sat) Sat - Sun 2 p.m.; Tue - Thurs 2, 7:10, 9:10 p.m. •**Sabrina** (PG) Sat - Sun 1:45 p.m.; Tue - Thurs 1:45, 6:30, 8:50 p.m. •**Tom and Huck** (PG) (opens Sat) Sat - Sun 2 p.m.; Tue - Thurs 2, 7:10, 9:10 p.m.

**HAMPSHIRE MALL 6 CINEMAS**

Hadley (584-7550)  
•**Balto** (G) (opens Fri) Fri - Sun and Tue - Thurs 11:40, 4, 6 p.m.; Mon 4, 6 p.m. •**Cutthroat Island** (PG-13) (opens Fri) Fri - Sat and Tue - Thurs 11:40, 2:20, 8, 10:30 p.m.; Sun 11:40, 2:20, 8

p.m. Mon 8, 10:30 p.m. •**Father of the Bride 2** (PG) Fri - Sat and Tue - Thurs 1:10, 5, 8:10, 10:40 p.m.; Sun 1:10, 5, 8:10 p.m.; Mon 5, 8:10, 10:40 p.m.

•**Jumanji** (PG) Fri - Sat and Tue - Thurs noon, 2:10, 5:10, 8:20, 10:50 p.m.; Sun noon, 2:10, 5:10, 8:20 p.m.; Mon 3, 5:10, 8:20, 10:50 p.m.

•**Sudden Death** (R) (opens Fri) Fri - Sat and Tue - Thurs 1:30, 5, 8:10, 10:40 p.m.; Sun 1:30, 5, 8:10 p.m.; Mon 5, 8:10, 10:40 p.m.

•**Tom and Huck** (PG) (opens Fri) Fri - Sat 11:50, 2:20, 5:10, 8:20, 10:50 p.m.; Sun 11:50, 2:20, 5:10, 8:20 p.m.; Mon 3:10, 5:10, 8:20, 10:50 p.m.

•**Toy Story** (G) Fri - Sat and Tue - Thurs 12:10, 2:30, 5:20, 8:30, 10:50 p.m.; Sun 12:10, 2:30, 5:20, 8:30 p.m.; Mon 3:20, 5:20, 8:30, 10:50 p.m.

•**Waiting to Exhale** (R) (opens Fri) Fri - Sat and Tue - Thurs 1:45, 5:15, 7:30, 10 p.m.; Sun 1:45, 5, 7 p.m.; Mon 5:15, 7:30, 10 p.m.

•**Dracula Dead and Loving It** (PG) (opens Fri) 12:05, 2:35, 4:45, 7:05, 9:20 p.m. daily.

•**Father of the Bride 2** (PG) 12:20, 2:45, 7, 9:25 p.m. daily.

•**Jumanji** (PG) 12:10, 2:40, 5, 7:20, 9:45 p.m. daily.

•**Sudden Death** (R) (opens Fri) noon, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40 p.m. daily.

•**Toy Story** (G) 12:25, 2:30, 4:25, 6:30, 8:25, 10:15 p.m. daily.

•**Waiting to Exhale** (R) (opens Fri) 12:15, 3:15, 6:45, 9:30 p.m.

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•**Waiting to Exhale** (R) (opens Fri) 12:15, 3:15, 6:45, 9:30 p.m.

eye and Mon matinee. •**Father of the Bride 2** (PG) 6:55, 9:10 p.m. daily, except Sun; starting Sat 2 p.m. matinee daily, except Mon.

•**Jumanji** (PG) 7, 9:05 p.m. daily, except Sun; starting Sat 2 p.m. matinee daily, except Mon.

•**Sudden Death** (R) (opens Fri) Fri - Sat and Tue - Thurs 1:30, 5, 8:10, 10:40 p.m.; Sun 1:30, 5, 8:10 p.m.; Mon 5, 8:10, 10:40 p.m.

•**Tom and Huck** (PG) (opens Fri) Fri - Sat 11:50, 2:20, 5:10, 8:20, 10:50 p.m.; Sun 11:50, 2:20, 5:10, 8:20 p.m.; Mon 3:10, 5:10, 8:20, 10:50 p.m.

•**Toy Story** (G) Fri - Sat and Tue - Thurs 12:10, 2:30, 5:20, 8:30, 10:50 p.m.; Sun 12:10, 2:30, 5:20, 8:30 p.m.; Mon 3:20, 5:20, 8:30, 10:50 p.m.

•**Waiting to Exhale** (R) (opens Fri) Fri - Sat and Tue - Thurs 1:45, 5:15, 7:30, 10 p.m.; Sun 1:45, 5, 7 p.m.; Mon 5:15, 7:30, 10 p.m.

•**Dracula Dead and Loving It** (PG-13) (opens Fri) Fri - Sat and Tue - Thurs 2, 5:30, 7:45, 10:15 p.m.; Sun 2, 5:15, 7:15 p.m.; Mon 5:30, 7:45, 10:15 p.m.

•**Grumpier Old Men** (PG-13) (opens Fri) Fri - Sat and Tue - Thurs 1:45, 5:15, 7:30, 10 p.m.; Sun 1:45, 5, 7 p.m.; Mon 5:15, 7:30, 10 p.m.

•**Heat** (R) Fri - Sat 12:30, 4, 7:30, 10:45 p.m.; Sun 12:30, 4, 7:15 p.m.; Mon 5, 8:45 p.m.; Tue - Thurs 1, 5, 8:45 p.m.

•**Waiting to Exhale** (R) (opens Fri) Fri - Sat and Tue - Thurs 1:30, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15 p.m.; Sun 1:30, 4:30, 7 p.m.; Mon 4:45, 7:30, 10:15 p.m.

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4:45, 7:15, 9:45 p.m., Sat 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 p.m., Mon 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 p.m., Tue - Thurs 7, 9:30 p.m., Wed matinee 10 a.m.

**SPRINGFIELD CINEMAS**

Springfield (782-1000)  
•**Ace Ventura - When Nature Calls** (PG-13) 2:45, 5, 7:20, 9:25 p.m. daily.

•**An American President** (PG) 2:25, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50 p.m. daily.

•**Babe** (G) 2, 3:50, 5:45 p.m. daily.

•**Carrington** (R) 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 p.m. daily.

•**Copcat** (R) 2, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40 p.m. daily.

•**Dangerous Minds** (R) 7:35, 9:55 p.m. daily.

•**Four Rooms** (PG-13) (opens Mon) Mon - Thurs 2:05, 4:30, 7, 9:25 p.m.

•**Got Shorty** (R) 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55 p.m. daily.

•**Goldeneye** (PG-13) 2, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05 p.m. daily.

•**Home for the Holidays** (PG-13) Fri - Sun 2:05, 4:30, 7, 9:25 p.m.

•**It Takes Two** (PG) 2:15, 4:35 p.m. daily.

•**Money Train** (R) 2:10, 4:25, 7:10, 9:40 p.m. daily.

•**A Month by the Lake** (PG) 2:10, 4:20, 7:10, 9:15 p.m. daily.

•**Seven** (R) 7, 9:45 p.m. daily.

•**Unzipped** (R) 2:05, 4, 5:40, 7:30, 9:30 p.m. daily.

•**Unzipped** (R) 2:05, 4, 5:40, 7:30, 9:30 p.m. daily.

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**WHEN NIGHT IS FALLING**

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Sat. - 3, 5, 7 & 9pm

Sun. - Xmas Eve - Theatre Closed

Mon. - Xmas Day - 12/25, 5:15pm only

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with

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Jennifer Beals Madonna

Marisa Tomei Valeria Golina



# news • of • the WEIRD

by Chuck Shepherd

## LEAD STORY

A 62-year-old woman pleaded guilty in Roanoke, Va., in November to stealing about 500 pieces of mail from her neighbors' mail boxes — her third such offense in five years. She had been found sane and competent for trial but nonetheless diagnosed as having an "irresistible impulse" to steal other people's mail. The judge had kept her confined to her home since her arrest, allowing her full freedom only on Sundays, when there is no mail delivery.

## POLICE BLOTTER

Police in New York City arrested Paul Keller, 30, in October and accused him of being the Snacking Bandit who had been breaking into homes in Queens, stealing cash and valuables and inevitably raiding the refrigerator before he left. Detectives following the 11 Snacking Bandit cases between April and June note that the Bandit had been described by a witness in April as weighing 170 pounds; by a witness in May, 175 pounds; and by a witness in June, 180 pounds.

In September, according to police in New Canaan, Conn., someone removed the tires from a car parked at a commuter train station, stole

the brakes, and put the tires back on. And in Mt. Juliet, Tenn., in May, Shirley and Rick Wheeler reported their driveway missing; thieves had removed all the gravel and plowed the ground beneath it.

John W. Tay was arrested for burglary in El Cajon, Calif., in November and told police that he felt so bad about having had to break the victims' window that he had left the residents a \$50 bill on the floor by the window to pay for it. Police returned to the scene and confirmed Tay's story.

Among recent crime targets: A small amount of cash was taken during a June break-in at the local Crime Stoppers civic group's office in St. John's, Newfoundland. And in May, one of the accountants employed by the Scotland Yard detective organization in London was accused of embezzling about \$8 million over an eight-year period from an undercover operations fund.

## FAMILY VALUES

In August, Joy Glassman, 60, was charged in Mount Shasta, Calif., with arson in connection with five fires dating back to June 1994. According to police, Glassman set the fires to

help the career of her son, Jason Robertson, who was a Mount Shasta firefighter at the time.

## UNCLEAR ON THE CONCEPT

Parole board transcripts released in August of the attempt at freedom by convicted killer Winston Moseley, 61, reveal his appeal for sympathy: The suffering of his three victims was only "a one-minute affair," he said, "but for the person who's caught, it's forever."

From a March letter to the editor of the Kingsport (Tenn.) Times-News, exposing local jail conditions, written by inmate Travis Nelms, 22, who had been locked up for the ninth time since 1992: "We the inmates here at the Sullivan County Jail [are] concerned that here we all [are] treated as criminals."

Charles Mahuka, who ran an anger-counseling seminar in Honolulu, was charged in October in connection with the death of one of his clients, Miguel Gonzalez, who had showed up late and inebriated for a session. The two argued and Mahuka punched Mr. Gonzalez,

who lapsed into a coma and died.

In October, apparently angry that a truck was moving too slowly in traffic for her taste, Lisa Lind, 26, pulled up alongside it in her car, held an aluminum baseball bat out the window, and took several futile swipes at the truck as both were moving down the highway. Police in Tustin, Calif., arrested her and noticed her personalized license plate, "PEACE 95." Said an officer, "She told me she got it because she thought there was so much violence going on in today's society."

(Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, P.O. Box 8306, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33738, or 74777.3206@compuserve.com.)

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# LATE SHOW

with David Letterman

## TOP TEN SIGNS YOU BOUGHT A BAD CHRISTMAS TREE

10. Two feet tall, forty feet wide
9. Salesman's opening line: "You're not a cop, are you?"
8. It looks suspiciously like a broom handle with a lot of coat hangers
7. While you sleep, it gets liquored up and takes the family caravan for a joy ride
6. Each branch has "Duraflame" printed on it
5. Keeps heckling your lame top ten list
4. It's very small and says "air freshener" on it
3. Rabbits have better Christmas trees than yours
2. Some guy named Mujibur puts a crappy Statue of Liberty on top of it
1. Constantly bragging about its "trunk size"

## TOP TEN SANTA PICK-UP LINES

10. "I'll make you shake like a bowl full of jelly"
9. "I put the 'scroo' in 'Scrooge'!"
8. "I've got something you can hang a wreath on"
7. "One hour with me, honey, and you'll see flyin' reindeer"
6. "Buy you a Zima?"
5. "That is a candy cane in my pocket, and I'm glad to see you"
4. "Uh — yeah, that's right, I'm Kenny Rogers"
3. "I got your stocking stuffer right here, Shirley!"
2. "Giddy-up over here and say 'Howdy' to your fat, bearded cowboy of love!"
1. "I've got an elf in my pants!"

## TOP TEN LEAST POPULAR HOLIDAY TV SPECIALS

10. *The Gingrich That Stole Christmas*
9. *Rush Limbaugh Eats a Reindeer*
8. *Bob Hope's Dizzy Dizzy Christmas*
7. *Frothy the Runny-Nosed Snow Monkey*
6. *Richard Simmons Sweatin' with Elves*
5. *Harvey Fierstein's Hanukkah on Fire Island*
4. *Van Damme Kick-Boxes Santa to Death*

## 3. The Dave Letterman Christmas Spectacular

## 2. Joycelyn Elders' Mistletoe-For-One Special

## 1. Teddy the Red-Nosed Kennedy

## TOP TEN THINGS MADONNA IS LOOKING FOR IN A HUSBAND

10. Someone who will be patient while she's in the bathroom reinventing herself
9. Must have experience operating cone bra
8. Despite song, shouldn't expect her to really be like a virgin
7. A steady nine-to-five job and must make at least \$27,000 a year
6. Open-minded about sharing their bed with lots and lots of basketball players
5. A foreigner, to expand her cultural horizons and teach her new swear words
4. Ability to vogue while pushing a lawnmower
3. First name: Andy — Last name: Rooney
2. You know that "Million Man March?" Any one of those guys would be just fine
1. One word: gap-tooth

## TOP TEN GOOD THINGS ABOUT A COLD SNAP

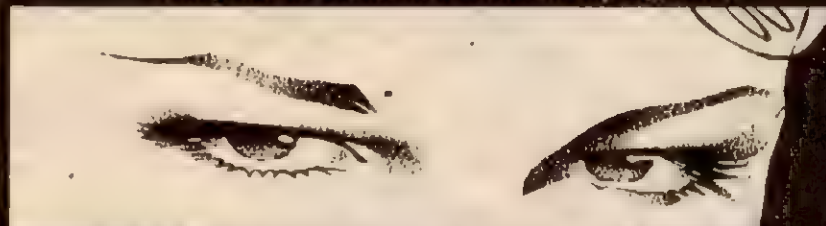
10. Less upsetting when some guy flips you the mitten instead of the finger
9. Naked guys on D-train now wearing Speedos
8. Chance to use the word "dickey" in polite company
7. "Unbearable stench" of East River upgraded to just a "sickening smell"
6. Actually enjoyable to spill scalding hot McDonald's coffee on your lap
5. Very refreshing and made of natural ingredients (sorry, that's a cold Snapple)
4. Husbands of Anna Nicole Smith stay fresher longer
3. Thrill of realizing your "reflection" in ice of Hudson River is actually a mob informant
2. If hell freezes over, CBS will be number one!
1. Clinton can't wear those tiny jogging shorts

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PERSONAL,  
TURN TO PAGE 46 ...

Optimist  
Personals

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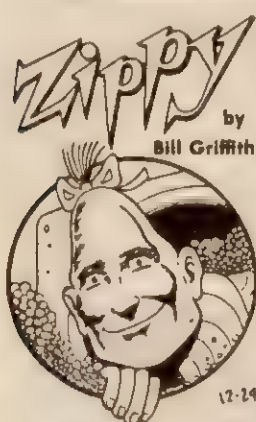
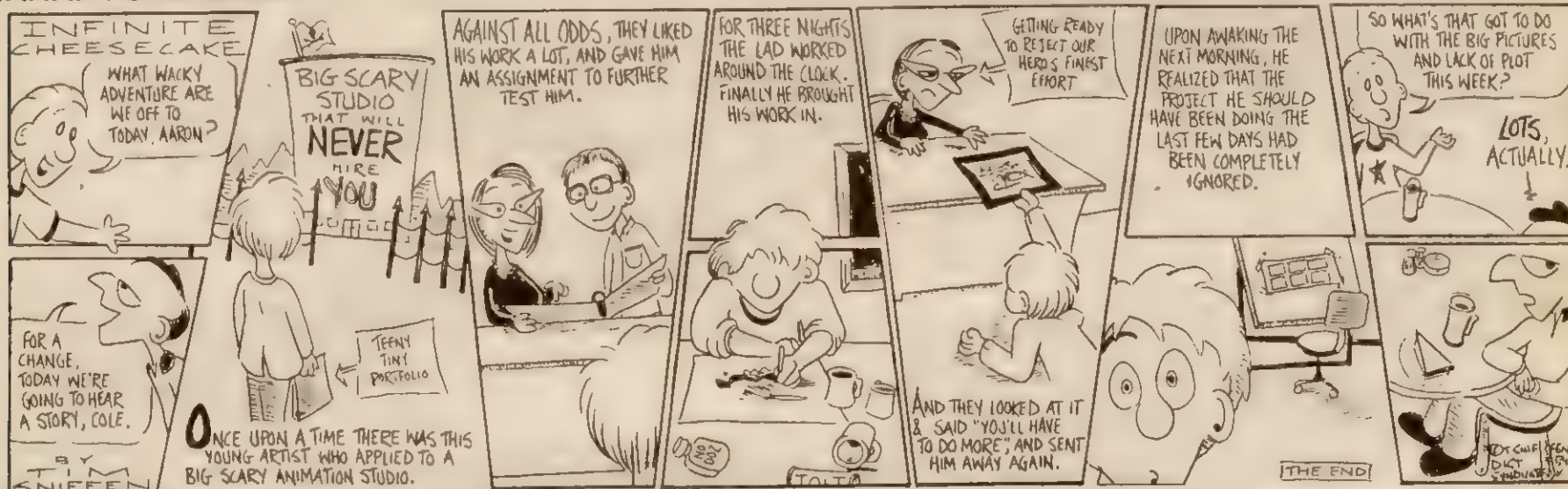
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## Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0818

### ACROSS

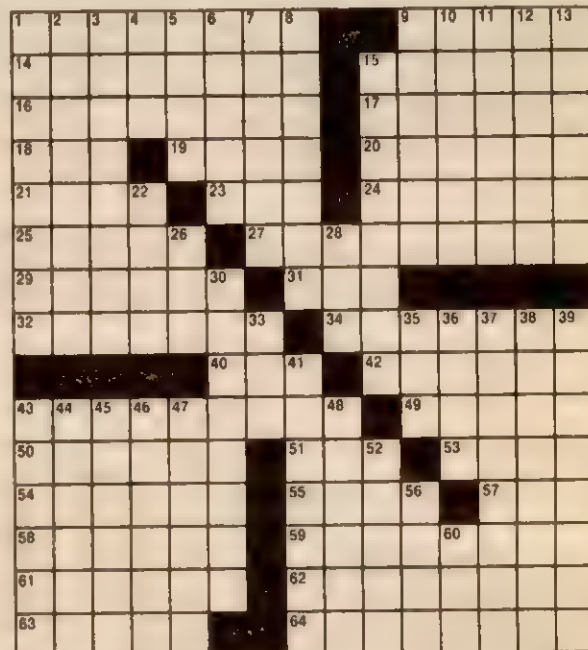
- 1 747, e.g.
- 9 Hotel posting
- 14 Basketball game
- 15 Follower of Santa
- 16 Pant waist inserts
- 17 "I, Robot" author
- 18 It can have pluses or minuses
- 19 Granada grizzlies
- 20 Twinkle-toed
- 21 Baking
- 23 One past due
- 24 More costly

- 25 Ultimate buyers
- 27 Perfect
- 29 Converge (on)
- 31 Feel sick
- 32 Tart
- 34 Early biblical commentary
- 40 Aurora's counterpart
- 42 Mal de mer
- 43 Fabric design
- 49 Southwestern sights
- 50 "Strange Interlude" playwright
- 51 Actress Gardner
- 53 Boss: Abbr.
- 54 Courage

- 55 Govt. disaster agency
- 57 Inn drink
- 58 Excessive contraction of the pupil
- 59 Boys Town figure
- 61 Draws out
- 62 — glycol (antifreeze)
- 63 Stucco backing
- 64 Had a setback

### DOWN

- 1 Liar in old car ads
- 2 Release, redundantly
- 3 Follows a stream's path
- 4 Cattle genus
- 5 Knowing about
- 6 Horizontal beam
- 7 Rerun of a telecast
- 8 Inlaid piece
- 9 More optimistic
- 10 Kind of cracker
- 11 Sound quality
- 12 Where professors profess
- 13 People of some account
- 15 Troubadour's instrument



Puzzle by Manny Nosowsky

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

F	A	B	U	L	I	S	T	S	C	A	M	P	S				
E	V	A	N	E	S	C	E	H	O	B	A	R	T				
M	A	N	D	O	L	I	N	A	L	A	N	O	N				
U	L	A	N	E	E	B	R	A	N	D	X						
R	O	N	A	S	N	A	R	K	D	A	M	S					
S	N	A	P	S	C	R	O	F	O	L	I	O					
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G	E	M	D	I	S	O	W	N	S	Y	E	S					
A	L	A	M	O	S	R	I	A	T	A							
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S	O	D	S	B	I	R	D	S	F	A	C	E					
				N	A	U	S	E	A	C	A	B	M	E	R		
				C	O	R	S	E	T	M	A	N	D	I	B	L	E
				A	R	I	E	L	S	A	V	E	R	S	I	O	N
				M	A	N	R	A	Y	P	E	R	M	E	A	T	E

- 22 Aligned, with "in"
- 28 "Sprechen — Deutsch?"
- 29 Lip
- 30 Like a lot of worry
- 33 As well
- 35 Flood control
- 36 Is contrite
- 37 Pacifies
- 38 Alaskan transport
- 39 Hurried up
- 41 Office employee
- 43 Beat
- 44 One of the Five Nations
- 45 Exhale
- 46 Art museum rejects?
- 47 Friends
- 48 Having a model's body
- 52 Menotti character
- 56 Author Seton
- 60 Monte Rosa, e.g.

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TURN TO PAGE 46**

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## Your Weekly Horoscope

by Sally Brompton

**Forecast for the week of Dec. 25  
- Dec. 31, 1995**

### ARIES

(March 21 - April 19): For once, you are in a position to justify running before you can walk. Your ruler Mars, aligned to Mercury, is allowing you to outrank and outrun the opposition in the professional, business, or financial field. Be discreet. Your strength lies in what you know that others don't.

### TAURUS

(April 20 - May 20): You can now afford to be a little more adventurous in relation to your professional or personal lifestyle. Being tied to an outdated image can be as restrictive as being tied to an outdated job or relationship. Just be sure that what you show is what you are.

### GEMINI

(May 21 - June 20): Be careful not to say anything you might regret in connection with a business or financial venture. A Mercury-Mars conjunction is giving you the opportunity to air your views rather more forcefully than is considered diplomatic. Avoid the bait, and you will survive the rapids.

### CANCER

(June 21 - July 22): Someone has got the wrong end of the stick, and you seem to be bearing the brunt of their emotions. For the moment, however, reassurance and understanding will be more effective than a no-holds-barred confrontation. Avoid do-gooders — they are on nobody's side but their own.

### LEO

(July 23 - Aug. 22): You are trying to be too many things to too many people. You run the risk of jeopardizing your own well-being. In fact, certain individuals are more than able to stand on their own feet, given the chance. A sense of duty is only viable if it is based on reality.

### VIRGO

(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): Your ruler Mercury, aligned to Mars and Neptune, is allowing you a rare respite to pursue a creative or romantic goal. Don't waste it. Time is an expandable commodity. If you want to do something badly enough, there is always time.

### LIBRA

(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): Don't allow yourself to be talked into doing something that, in your heart of hearts, you would rather not do. Just because someone is credible or convincing does not mean they are right. Stick up for yourself now, and it will be easier next time.

### SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): You tend to be hard to impress at the best of times, and it would be foolish to accept a certain person's views or beliefs at face value just now. It's far better to follow your instincts and base your judgment on what is rather than on what might be.

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Don't make the mistake of becoming overly confident about a financial or business venture that is far from settled. In fact, you would be wise to take expert advice rather than to rely on the suggestions of well-meaning friends. Think before you speak or act.

### CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Positive planetary activity in your birth sign should give your confidence a much-needed boost this week. There are, however, certain people who would prefer you to remain in the wings. Ignore them. You are ideally placed to take center stage and should do so.

### AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): You probably feel as if you are on the edge of a financial or emotional precipice. What you don't realize is that there is a safety net just out of sight. By having faith in your own ability and integrity, you stand the chance of succeeding now where you have failed before.

### PISCES

(Feb. 19 - March 20): There comes a point when one has to draw a line through the past, and you appear to have reached it. Your ruler Neptune is encouraging you to sever an unproductive association that is doing you more harm than good. On this occasion, sooner is better than later.

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— New York Times Syndicate ★

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# Emotional Fitness

by Tom Raymond, LICSW

Dear Tom,

My sister and I are very close, but sometimes I wish she didn't exist. It seems like every time I'm interested in someone for a relationship, or even when I make a new friend, he meets my attractive, vivacious sister and then all I hear about is her. I love her, but when this kind of thing happens (and it happens a lot), we don't get along at all. How can I keep someone interested in me, not her?

— Out-Shone

You and I know you can't judge a book by its cover but the men in your life may not. In fact, lots of guys never learn. They continue to be swayed by a good marketing job only to panic because the numbers don't add up when they reach the bottom line. And the bottom line is this: genuine intimacy is so difficult to create and maintain that once you've got it nobody can take it away.

The reason you're tasting some sibling sour

game. Soon you'll catch up in the popularity contest as well.

Dear Tom,

I'm in graduate school, and I'm very attracted to one of my professors. We click on an intellectual level as well as personally, and we've had some fantastic conversations, some of them with flirtatious undertones. He's not married, but I can't tell if his interest is more than friendly. I don't know if it's appropriate to say something. Should I try to just quell my feelings?

— Educated Rita

Students are wise to pause before "falling" for one of their teachers, but given that you're in graduate school, your professor's not married, and graduate students often marry their teachers (just ask Newt Gingrich), it's hard to come up with a clear reason not to go forward.

At this level of academia, it's really more

**Because the nuts and bolts of what makes a close friendship work aren't easy to recognize, we tend to gravitate to the person with the cutest smile**

grapes is that it's very difficult at your age to keep your friends focused on the reality of "what is" rather than the fantasy of "what could be." Because the nuts and bolts of what makes a close friendship work aren't easy to recognize, we tend to gravitate to the person with the cutest smile, nicest clothes, or most outgoing personality. (People like this aren't necessarily bad risks as friends; they just don't have to work as hard at getting our attention).

In time, the problem will disappear. Your friends will be attracted to you because of the unique qualities you bring to a relationship, and your sister's friends will look to her for something different.

In the meantime, do yourself a favor and stay clear of Sis while you're getting to know someone. You can, however, mention to her that even though you appreciate her charm, you'd appreciate it more if she'd cut it back a few notches when she's with you and your friends.

And by all means, don't worry about your homicidal urges. Most people in your situation would have already put super glue in your sister's lipstick. Since you recognize it's not her fault, you're doing well in the maturity

like an employer-employee relationship than student-teacher. As the person a step lower on the totem pole, you want to avoid putting yourself in a position in which a romantic relationship would compromise your credibility or a soured relationship would affect your performance.

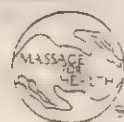
Otherwise, you're free to make your feelings known. But, between you and me, I'd let him make the first move. He's most likely aware of what's happening, and he needs to make some decisions regarding his standing in the college community. These relationships are common but are not without their social and political ramifications.

The other course of action is to keep things platonic until you're no longer in his class. Then you can see whether he's truly interested in you or simply attracted to whoever happens to be his latest "star" pupil.

Tom Raymond, LICSW, is a licensed clinical social worker who provides individual, family, and couples therapy at his office in Northfield, Massachusetts. You can write him at: 24 North Lane, Northfield, MA 01360; call: (413) 498-5872; or e-mail: mraymond@k12.oit.umass.edu. ★

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## Against All Odds, You Weren't Taken

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

Dear Tom and Ray:

I have a 1990 Chevrolet Lumina with 83,000 miles. Last Monday, the car started fine when I drove to work, but when I went to go home, it would not start. It cranked away but would not fire up.

I had the car towed to the nearest Chevrolet dealer. They told me the electronic ignition module went bad and had to be replaced if I wanted to start the car. The part was \$258 and the labor was \$84. Is this normal for a car with 83,000 miles? Why would it die with no warning? The dealership gave me the bad part. Is there any way a person can go and have it checked? I'm concerned that I may have been taken.

Kathy

**TOM:** I completely sympathize with your instincts, Kathy. We know that everyone even remotely connected with the automotive industry is a sleazeball (including us). But in this case, unbelievably, and against all odds, the diagnosis and the price both sound perfectly reasonable.

**RAY:** An electronic ignition module fails like a light bulb. It works fine, day in, day out. And then all of a sudden, you go into the room, flip the switch, and pffft! Doesn't work. Looks exactly the same. Just doesn't work anymore.

**TOM:** Of course, the ignition module takes a lot more abuse than a light bulb. It's subject to huge fluctuations in temperature, from below freezing in the winter to hundreds of degrees in the summer. Plus, it gets bounced and rattled every time you drive the car.

**RAY:** And eventually, one of the tiny electronic circuits in the module fails. And when it fails, the car won't start.

**TOM:** And 83,000 miles is a perfectly reasonable lifetime for an electronic ignition module. The price for the part was about right. And some of the labor charge is for the time spent diagnosing the problem. So that's about right, too.

**RAY:** I don't think you were cheated at all, Kathy. I think this dealer was absolutely honest with you.

And if you'll be kind enough to send us his name, we'll turn him over to the proper authorities first thing in the morning.

Dear Tom and Ray:

I have a Honda Accord equipped with Michelin tires. Recently, someone (not me, of course) caught the left rear tire on a curb and raised a "boo-boo" about 3 inches long by 2 inches wide on the sidewall. We were on a long drive, so I put on a new tire. But can I reuse the old one? Is there a reliable, maybe glue-in type of patch on the market that will reinforce that sidewall? The tire has 17,000 miles on it. Waiting with bated breath (Certs-treated, of course) for your answer.

—John

**TOM:** John, get serious! When you damage a sidewall, the tire is garbage.

**RAY:** You should thank your lucky stars that you noticed the damage and changed the tire before it blew out on the highway and caused you some SERIOUS problems.

**TOM:** Some of the high-end tire makers warranty their tires against damage, even if the damage is your fault. So it would be worth checking with your tire dealer to see if he'll pay for part of the replacement cost.

**RAY:** But when he tells you to go fly a kite, here's how you reuse your old tire, John. Tie a rope to it and hang it from a good sturdy tree limb in your backyard. Letting the kids use it as a swing is the only duty it's qualified for now.

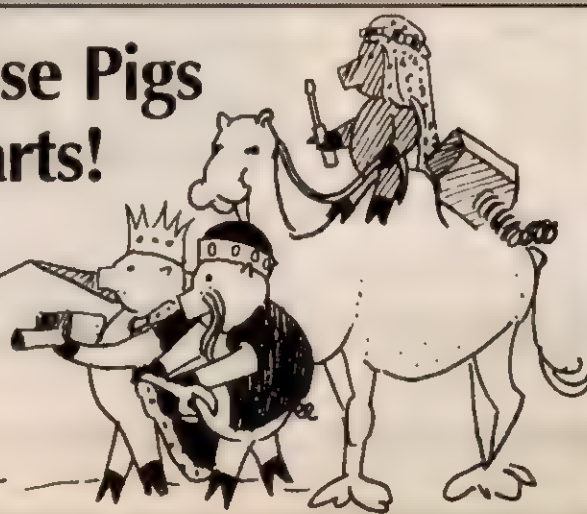
**TOM:** Is warming up your car actually BAD for it? Does slamming the door really make a difference to the life of your car? Should you save the brakes by shifting into a lower gear to help you slow down?

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**WE HAVE A JUICEMAKER** and lots of other great stuff in our large South Amherst home. One room available for Jan. 1st. Share house w/3 men. Great location, only 3 miles from UMass. Call today at 253-1594.

### PETS

**AKC BICHON** Frise pups. Male \$450. Parents on premise. (413)589-0075

**AKC GERMAN** Shp. pups, qual. bred. Shots, wormed. Raised w/kids. \$300 - 350. (413)253-0306

**AKC REGISTERED** Alaskan Malamutes, first shots and wormed. Whelped 11/8/95. Ready for the holidays. Call (413)238-5557.

**BLUE CROWN** Conures, hand-fed, learning to speak, \$300/B.O. Also, cockateils, hand-fed, \$30 + up. Call 786-3565, after 5pm.

**CANINE CONCEPTS** Unique approach to dog obedience. Assisting you in making your pet a better companion. Call (413)586-8694.

**DACHSHUND RESCUE** - Reliable placement service. Many Daxies need good homes. Call (413)586-8694.

**FREE TO a good home.** Adorable long-haired Calico cat and her kitten. Really cute. A must see. Call 584-6441.

**LOOKING FOR a** Siamese male stud. Negotiable. Call 534-0936.

**PERSIAN KITTENS** Chinchilla, shaded silver. Grand champion bloodline, green eyes, CFA, shots, health certificate included. Very affectionate. 458-8560.

**THE ONLY love money** can buy. AKC German Shepherd puppies (2) Ch. sired by Fox Hills Inferno, qual. puppies bred for temperament, intelligence, loyalty and beauty. \$550. Call 788-8277.

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# Optimist Personals

Send your ad to:



Optimag  
@aol.com



413-586-OPTI



13 Old South St  
Northampton, MA 01060

Call 413-586-OPTI from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Ask for the Personals Department and we will help you write your ad and give you instructions on using our Personals System.

LISTEN AND RESPOND TO ANY AD BY CALLING: **1-900-820-4008**

Optimist Personals cost \$2.19 per minute and are 18+

## WOMEN seeking MEN

### OLDER WOMAN SEEKING YOUNGER MALE

I am 53, 5'2", long black hair, green eyes, like motorcycles, stock car races, and monster trucks. Looking for a friend or possibly more between 25 - 45. (1306)

### BLONDIE SINGS THE BLUES...

...and rock, country, folk, classical, liturgical...you name it! Mellow, artistic, creative, progressive SWF w/ many goals/interests wants to meet SWMs, 36 - 45, from greater Northampton area. (1303)

### SBF IN SEARCH OF A SM

Preference is SBM or DBM who is easygoing, likes to be adventurous, has good sense of humor & likes children. I'm looking for you. I'm well educated, career-oriented, love to sing, sew, dance, enjoy jazz and plays. (1301)

### LET'S SKI IN THE NEW YEAR!

DWF seeks S/DM for friendship, possibly more. Prefer NS. Let's ring in the New Year skiing down a big mountain. I love jazz, rock &

roll and the classics. (1300)

### WINTER WARMTH

by the fireplace w/ DWPF, 50s, 5'8", who enjoys the outdoors, XC skiing, plays, music & the arts. Seeking DWPM, educated, w/ similar interests for friendship & possible LTR (1298)

### WISHING ON A STAR

Are you tall, good-looking, secure, compassionate, trustworthy, a good conversationalist, humorous, considerate, understanding/tolerant of children and single-parent responsibility, unassuming, non-smothering, outdoorsy, athletic, NS/D, emotionally ready for commitment? Thank God I finally found you! Happy Holidays! (1293)

### LOVELY HOUSEWIFE LOOKING FOR MILKMAN

SWF, 21, seeks SWM 20-25. Looking to go back to the beginning to share a soda w/ 2 straws. (1284)

### OLD-FASHIONED PERSON

SWF, 38, w/ children. Looking for long-term relationship w/ NS, ND, no-drug SWM. Weight & age unimportant. Need to be mentally stable. Kids OK. (1280)

### CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EARLY

For a S/DWM, 42-49,

## Optimist Personal Of The Week

### Women Seeking Men

### BLONDIE SINGS THE BLUES...

...and rock, country, folk, classical, liturgical...you name it! Mellow, artistic, creative, progressive SWF w/ many goals/interests wants to meet SWMs, 36 - 45, from greater Northampton area. (1303)

w/an off-beat sense of style. SWF, 45, designer, who loves rock 'n' roll, dining out & creative art would like to hear from you. No single parents. Letters Only. (1279)

### I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU BUT CAN'T FIND YOU

You've searched for me for years. Let's meet now and head for Valentine's Day together! Educated, warm, loving jokester, 40s, attractive, trim. (1276)

### DEAR HEART,

I am a tall, fit DWF seeking a WM companion (40-50) who has chemistry w/ me. I'm attracted to tall, trim, athletic, handsome, masculine men who are affectionate, sensuous, funny, intelligent and have a self-confident demeanor. Have a casual sense of style, good manners and treat others as you wish to be treated. I have a

childlike heart and would like my companion to cherish that part of me because that's where I let go of myself and fall in love. (1267)

### SF, ARTIST, 38

Likes museums, movies, cooking, travel & outdoors. Physically fit. Seeks independent, drug/alcohol free M w/ sense of humor. Children OK. (1263)

### YOU CAN BE A LITTLE GOOFY

But you can be counted on too. You're bright, broad-shouldered, compassionate, and fun to talk to. I'm 35, well-travelled, well-read, progressive, affectionate, engaging, and spending way too much time alone. (1241)

### BEST FRIEND FOR LIFE?

This Piscean, SJF, "boomer", seeking friendship w/ honest,

intelligent, progressive, nurturing, educated, tragi-comic, spiritual, emotional, conscious, loving male kindred spirit, sharing interests including writing, music, film, dance, growth, recovery, teaching, healing, ocean, family. (No Republicans, gun-slingers, fitness fascists, or semi-detached married men). (1169)

### MEN seeking WOMEN

### DWM, 40

Attractive professional seeks attractive, slender, S/DWF, 26-36, for friendship, fun & relationship. (1310)

### HOLD MY HAND

SWM, 24, 6', 165, hard-working, down-to-earth, enjoys music, travelling & quiet times at home. Seeking SWF, 19-25, who is honest, sincere, caring, humorous, light

drinker/smoker OK. (1309)

### WINTER EXPANSION

49, loving, caring, attentive, Jewish, divorced, ex-macro, virtually vegetarian, kosherly conscious, unsuccessfully retired, fit, youthful, truthful; probably not the one, but worth knowing. Letters welcome. (1307)

### RUBENESQUE MAN SEEKS RUBENESQUE WOMAN

I'm young 40s, attractive, and very sensual. Lets connect for mutual exploration. Creative letters only! (1305)

### ICONOCLASTIC

Artistic, affectionate, multi-faceted, sensitive, pissy, conversant, literate, DWM, 37, vaguely attractive, quaintly eccentric, boyishly exuberant, staidly hedonistic seeks winsome cohort to savor life's panoply, share laughter, adven-

ture, romance. (1304)

**SWEET CHILD IN TIME**  
You'll see the lines, lines drawn between the good of us and the bad. SWM, 32, 5'7", NS, social drinker, intelligent, sincere, down-to-earth seeks SF w/ a sharp mind and considerate soul. (1302)

### SEEKS SWF. I WOULD SPOIL HER ROTTEN

I'm a SWM, 35, & enjoy bowling, roller skating, movies, Riverside park, travelling, rock & roll & country music, basketball, football and football. (1299)

### EASYGOING

SWM, 37, interested in meeting SF, 30-45, NS slender preferred. I enjoy spontaneous living, love beaches, mountains, campfires, music, animals, sporting events, champagne /wine & dining w/ a nice down-to-earth woman. Sense of humor very important. (1297)

### NO FEAR

Leave inhibitions at the door. SPWM, 35, 6'3", 200 lbs., DOE, sense of humor, ISO SDWPF for possible LTR. Travel, outdoors, fitness. Kids OK. (1296)

**DWM, 42, MUSICAL, ROMANCEABLE**  
Grown children, I enjoy dancing, pool, movies,

volleyball, dinner, travelling, playing guitar; I'm healthy, attractive & ready to share life's pleasures w/ right woman over 30. (1295)

### EAT YOUR CAKE

Tired of the hunk vs. geek conundrum? Then break out of it w/ a SWM, 27, who is strong and kind, dependable, not predictable, humorously serious and seriously humorous, trustworthy, active, patient and passionate, who will treat you like a goddess, a buddy and an equal. Please be fit and ready to move past the primary colors. (1292)

### DWM, 26

5'11", great sense of humor, like to travel, music, outdoors, dancing, open-minded. Seeks S/DF w/sense of humor, fit, someone who likes to have fun, 25-40 for friendship, possible LTR. (1290)

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Looking for someone to share the holidays and possibly life. SWM, 31, working student, active, happy, healthy, secure, NS, light drinker. (1287)

**ATTRACTIVE, LOYAL KIND-HEARTED SWM**  
33, 5'9", brown hair, hazel eyes, hard-working entrepreneur. I have a sense of humor and

## ABBREVIATIONS

S - SINGLE	B - BISEXUAL
D - DIVORCED	G - GAY
W - WHITE	C - CHRISTIAN
B - BLACK	P - PROFESSIONAL
A - ASIAN	TV - TRANSVESTITE
J - JEWISH	LTR - LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
H - HISPANIC	ISO - IN SEARCH OF
M - MALE	NS - NON-SMOKING
F - FEMALE	ND - NON-DRINKING
WI - WIDOWED	

## USING THE SYSTEM

**TO LISTEN & RESPOND Call 1-900-820-4008**  
(Optimist Personals cost \$2.19 per minute, 18 or older). Enter the 4 digit code for the person you want to meet, or browse and respond to operators instructions.

**TO PLACE YOUR FREE Ad Call 413-586-OPTI**  
from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Ask for the Personals Department and we will help you write your ad and give you instructions on using our Personals System.

Please choose a Category:

☐ W seeking M ☐ M seeking W ☐ W seeking W ☐ M seeking M ☐ None of the Above ☐ Friends

Name:	FREE HEADLINE
Address:	
City/State/Zip:	
Telephone:	
Mail to: OPTIMIST PERSONALS, 13 Old South St. Northampton, MA 01060	Fax to: 413-586-0412 e-mail to: Optimag@aol.com

Optimist Personals is for single people 18 or over seeking relationships. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses. First meeting should occur in a public place. Ads and messages containing sexual suggestions or anatomical language will not be accepted. Optimist Personals reserves the right to reject any advertisement. Optimist Personals assumes no responsibility for the content or reply in any Optimist Personals ad. The advertiser assumes complete liability for the content and ad replies to any advertisement or recorded message and for any claims made against Optimist Personals. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold the Optimist and its employees and agents exempt from all costs and expenses (including reasonable attorney fees, liabilities and damages resulting from or caused by the publication or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement). By using Optimist Personals, the advertiser agrees not to leave his/her phone number, last name or address in his/her voice greeting. Ads will be printed on a space-available basis.

FIRST 40 WORDS FREE  
50c PER WORD THEREAFTER



**LISTEN AND RESPOND TO ANY AD BY CALLING: 1-900-820-4008**  
**Optimist Personal calls cost \$2.19 per minute. 18+ only.**

believe in natural health & fitness. I am a cultured man w/ morals, values & ambition. I am sensitive & caring to others who try hard at helping themselves. I have an appreciation for the arts, adventure, nature, hiking, biking, travel & cooking. I am seeking a NS, honest achiever - SWF 25 - early 40s for heartfelt relationship to share life with. (1285)

#### SEXY LATINO

Tall, dark and handsome young man w/ muscular build seeks SWM 25-35 w/ good looks and intelligence. I like rock music & riding double on my snowmobile to VT for fun-filled weekends. Send photo. (1283)

#### SID LOOKING FOR NANCY

SWM, 25, very loving and nurturing, a little wild and a lot crazy. If you are into music movies and would like to share the sunrise or sunset - give me a call. (1282)

#### SEXY & ROMANTIC

Attractive DWM, 39, active, humorous, business owner, college grad. Warm, sensitive, music lover. Seeking pretty S/DF, 20-46, NS, bright, affectionate and caring for fun times & possible relationship. (1278)

#### WHY ARE WE LOOKING HERE?

SWM, 30, I've spent enough time building a strong career & house. Now I need to provide for someone special in my life. We may be looking for the same thing for our paths to cross here. I am a gentleman who is a very good listener, always been old-fashioned, romantic & a handyman. Can you be a friend to love, committed to a relationship & NS? Do you need a close companion to talk/be with, share life with? (1277)

#### LAI D BACK

SWM w/ a passion for life seeks positive female to share bright moments. Interests include: music, arts, DTP, fine wine & good food. No cigarettes; age, race unimportant. Jah lives. (1273)

**STRICTLY BALLROOM-** SWM, 19, 6', passionate, amorous, ballroom dancer. Enjoys rock, singing, massages, and stargazing. Seeks SF, 5'8"+, of similar age and interests. Long straight hair and a good figure are musts. (1272)

#### A WHOLE PERSON SWM,

30, wanting to be real. Mindful, gentle, and humorous. Intelligent & passionate. Enjoys romance, quiet evenings at home, movies and dancing. If you are 25-35, share similar qualities and are someone for whom honesty is important - call. (1266)

#### AN EYE FOR THE LITTLE THINGS

SWM 25, 5'4", good-looking, intense at times, passionate, compassionate, loves life, all kinds. Always growing and willing to take risks. If you are 21-29, NS & share these qualities, please call. (1262)

#### I HAVE A PASSION

for classical music and lots of TLC. M, young-looking 50, seeks gentle attractive woman, slender to medium, to pamper. Other passions include hiking, Scrabble, tennis, reading & weekend getaways. I live in Northern CT, willing to drive. (1253)

#### NICE DECENT FELLOW

Alas! Love's labor lost. Not getting anywhere. We deserve better. SWM, 42, seeking nice decent woman of any description. Am friendly, adaptable, planetary cultured, spiritual, funny, educated, cute, funny & a listener. (1243)

#### FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Single Gentleman, 40-something, new to Northampton, financially secure but overworking. Seeks romantic remedy. Loves travelling, exploring, exercising, Cape Cod, and just plain fun. In pursuit of S/DFW for relationship/friendship that is mutually nourishing. (1238)

#### INTELLIGENT WOMAN

SJM, 43, 5'8", 180lbs., P, enjoy hiking, museums, opera and intelligent conversation. If you are a JW, 30 to 40 w/ similar interests, please call and let's get in touch; we might become good friends or something more. (1236)

#### HIGHLY CREATIVE ARIES ARTIST, TALL W/ GOOD LOOKS

50, prefers nature and freedom over money and status...Fit, resourceful, tactile, educated, good looks? Me too!! Looking for dancer, gypsy, of lithe and sultry nature; prefer letters to voice message. Incl. photo if possible. (1204)

#### FREEZER BURN. NOT!

Seeking love in all the wrong places? Attractive SWM, late 30s, seeking a soulmate/lovermate, S/DF 30-45, to romp around in the winter snow. If you enjoy the arts, books, politics & romantic interludes, give me a try. This guy won't bite or burn. (1185)

#### LET'S HAVE FUN!

SWM, 33, financially stable with broad shoulders, brown hair and brown eyes seeks S/DF, age 22-38, who is happy with herself, enjoys moonlit walks and quality conversation. Also likes romance, good food, music and movies. (1103)

#### BIG BEAUTIFUL

SBM 35, seeking to meet a full-figured lady of any race for friendship. 6'3" with interests in movies, dancing, reading, opera, popular music, theater, beaches and much more. (1102)

#### MARRIAGE-MINDED TEDDY BEAR

Romantic teddy bear SWM, 40s, NS and social drinker. Financially & emotionally secure. Seeks professional SWF, 30+, never married, who enjoys tennis, movies, ocean, X-country skiing, and romantic candle light evenings at home. Write me a letter or call. (1088)

#### WOMEN seeking WOMEN

#### CHEERFUL LESBIAN BODY

19, substance-free, sincere, kind, romantic, earthy, a tad messy, soft butch, loves life, likes: chatting, making pottery, snuggling, camping, family dinners, Halloween, ISO a kind woman, 18-22, substance-free, for a loving, healthy friendship, perhaps eventual romance. (1308)

#### LET'S SLOW DANCE

GBF, 40+, attractive, playful spirit seeking G women of any race to dance, play, movies, sports, walks, quiet times, NS, social drinker, ND. Let's get together & enjoy life! (1291)

#### WILD WOMAN

BiWF, 25, intelligent, diverse, fun-loving, seeking friendship/relationship w/ similar woman, 21-30, who is proud of her bisexuality and knows it's NOT 'just a phase.' Love of alter, music, Kerouac and Billie a plus! (1281)

**VIRGO WOMAN** SGWF looking for friendship. Likes walking, coffee, Melissa Etheridge, seeking Butch Fem. 28-35 who enjoys life. (1274)

#### SUBTLY SEXY

Intelligent, fun-loving, humorous, good-looking, soft butch, early 40s desires to hear from lesbians who like what they've just read and want to know more. Lets take a walk, drink coffee & laugh. (1269)

#### "COME TO MY WINDOW"

GWF, 32, looking for friendship/possible relationship. Likes biking, walking, coffee talks, fine dining, Broadway shows, dancing, Melissa Etheridge, quiet evenings, holding hands. Looking for NS, someone who can accept me as I am, and who has a sense of humor. Age, race, and physical appearance not important. (1265)

#### BE BOLD WITH BANANAS

Meeting me could be the first day of the rest of your life, or, at the very least, your ticket to a hell of a good time and a good friend. Let's laugh ourselves silly at bad movies, plot a world takeover, have intelligent conversation, poke fun at the high & mighty and other pretentious sorts, count the stars in the sky on a clear night, and make smiles. I am 31. You can be anywhere from 25 to 40 if you like. I am African-American. You can be anything you want. I am most definitely a lesbian. You should be a woman w/ a yen for women, too. I am seeking women who appreciate good food, have brains and know how to use them, and, most importantly, have good sense of humor. Hesitant? Don't be. Do be bold w/ bananas. (1094)

#### MEN seeking MEN

#### MUSCULAR & MASCULINE

Bi-WM, 43, 5'10", 165 lbs, youthful, good-looking, attractive, muscular & masculine. Hilltop Thoreau seeking similar spirited body builder into perfecting the pose, its pump, the high & staying there. For a natural, clean, innocent, mutual inspiration (1288)

**NORTH OF AMHERST** GWM 49 5'11" 150

lbs, lover of the rural meditative life, hiking, forests & firewood; quiet, patient, thoughtful, educated, ISO someone of like mind and spirit. (1286)

#### LITTLE GUY SEEKS SAME

34, 5'5", 125 lbs, looking for slim/avg. males under 35. For fun & friendship. (1275)

#### EASYGOING

GWM, 26, blond hair, brown eyes, 6', 160lbs., into movies, dining out, music, conversation & safe fun. Seeks friends/playmates for the long cold winter months ahead. Possible LTR. (1271)

#### GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

4'11", 100lbs, 33, brown hair, green eyes, hairy chest, would like to meet someone who is 18-40 for friendship or relationship. (1264)

#### VIRILE YOUNG GUYS

Sought for passive, pleasing encounters from a skillful older man. Average & above personality/physique, 18-35, any race. No experience necessary, possible psychological and tangible support for college men. (1206)

#### TEEN GAY WHITE MALE

seeking other teens. 18, blonde hair, blue eyes. 5'9" 130lbs., slim build, cute, very open-minded, seeks slim, smooth male under 21. (1096)

#### MUSCULAR MALE SEEKS YOUNGER

GWM, 27, 5'10" 155lb., cute, muscular, great body, tan. Seeks younger Male 18-22, slim. Swimmers build. Must be slim, any-race. (1095)

#### NONE OF THE ABOVE

#### LOVER

Full-figured, attractive, passionate, 45-25. I'm 42, attractive, earthy, a very giving lover... please write. (1311)

#### BISEXUAL SEXY WF

5'3", I need love & romantic evenings alone w/ my M/F lover. I love life, good times, movies & friends. I need someone to share my dreams and fantasies. Call me please! (1289)

#### PHENOMENON

Paranormal investigator, 24, seeks any and all who have had ghostly encounters, hauntings, UFO sightings/abductions, visions & dreams etc. Share & support group. Intimate-leave

message. (1270)

#### "BM BABY-BOOMER, WELL-SINGER,"

looking for band. Do jazz, R&B, Blues, Pop, some reggae singing - all with a lot of soul. Only serious bands please. (1268)

#### FRIENDS

#### GAY HISPANIC FEMALE

22, seeks down-to-earth and outgoing females of any lifestyle and age for friendship. (1182)

#### Responding To A Personal By Mail

- Place the letter of the person you want to reach in a SASE envelope with your return address in the upper left corner.
- Write ONLY the box number your are mailing to in the middle of the envelope.
- Write check or money order for \$2.19 payable to Optimist Publications\*
- Place the envelope & money in a larger envelope.

\*Mail larger envelope to: Optimist Personals  
 13 Old South St. Northampton, MA 01060

\*Letters will not be forwarded without a full prepayment. You will not be billed.

**PLACE YOUR OWN OPTIMIST PERSONAL!**

## Upcoming Optimist Personals Events!

### Friday Night Dance!

**JANUARY 6TH • 8PM-12PM**

COMPATIBLES  
 DAT CLUB, Inc.



Optimist  
 Personals

Starting January 6th, EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT is Singles Night! The kick off Compatibles hosts is its' third annual post-New Years bash. Start the new year at the Sheraton by meeting hundreds of Valley Singles! Cash bar, prizes, a free 40-word ad and a Dj will entertain all night long! Admission is 5\$.

### StageWest Wine & Cheese Series

**JANUARY 10TH 6:30PM-7:30PM**

COMPATIBLES  
 DAT CLUB, Inc.



Optimist  
 Personals

STAGEWEST

The first of our events co-sponsored with Compatibles at StageWest in downtown Springfield. There will be a cash bar, wine & cheese and a free 40 word personal ad to enjoy! Then, at 7:30pm, watch the play **THREE TALL WOMEN**. StageWest is located on 1 Columbus Ave in downtown Springfield, one block from The Peter Pan Station and the Baystate West Shops.

**Questions? Call The Optimist Personals**  
**1-413-586-6784**



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